ΕΝΙΑΥΤΟΣ ΤΕΡΑΣΤΙΟΣ

MIRABILIS ANNUS,

OR

The year of Prodigies and Wonders, being a faithful and impartial Collection of several Signs that have been seen in the Heavens, in the Earth, and in the Waters; together with many remarkable Accidents and Judgments befalling divers Persons, according as they have been testified by very credible hands; all which have happened within the space of one year last past, and are now made publick for a seasonable Warning to the People of these three Kingdoms speedily to repent and turn to the Lord, whose hand is lifted up amongst us.

Isaiah 5. 11, 12. *Wo to them that rise up early in the morning that they may follow strong drink, that continue until night till wine inflame them, and the Harp and the Viol, the Tabret and the Pipe, and Wine are in their feasts, but they regard not the Work of the Lord, neither consider the operation of his hands,* Psal. 111. 2. *The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.*

Revel. 15. 4. *Who shall not fear thee O Lord, and glorifie thy Name, for thou onely art Holy, for all Nations shall come and worship before thee, for thy judgements are made manifest.*

Omnia hæc signa sunt imminentis iræ Dei quam necesse est quoquo modo possumus ut & annunciemus & prædicemus & deprecemur, *Tertul. ad Scap p.* 89.

Quod signum erit iræ Dei impiis, erit signum perfectæ Redemptionis filiis Dei, *Zanch. de oper. Dei, Tom.* 3 *p.* 335.

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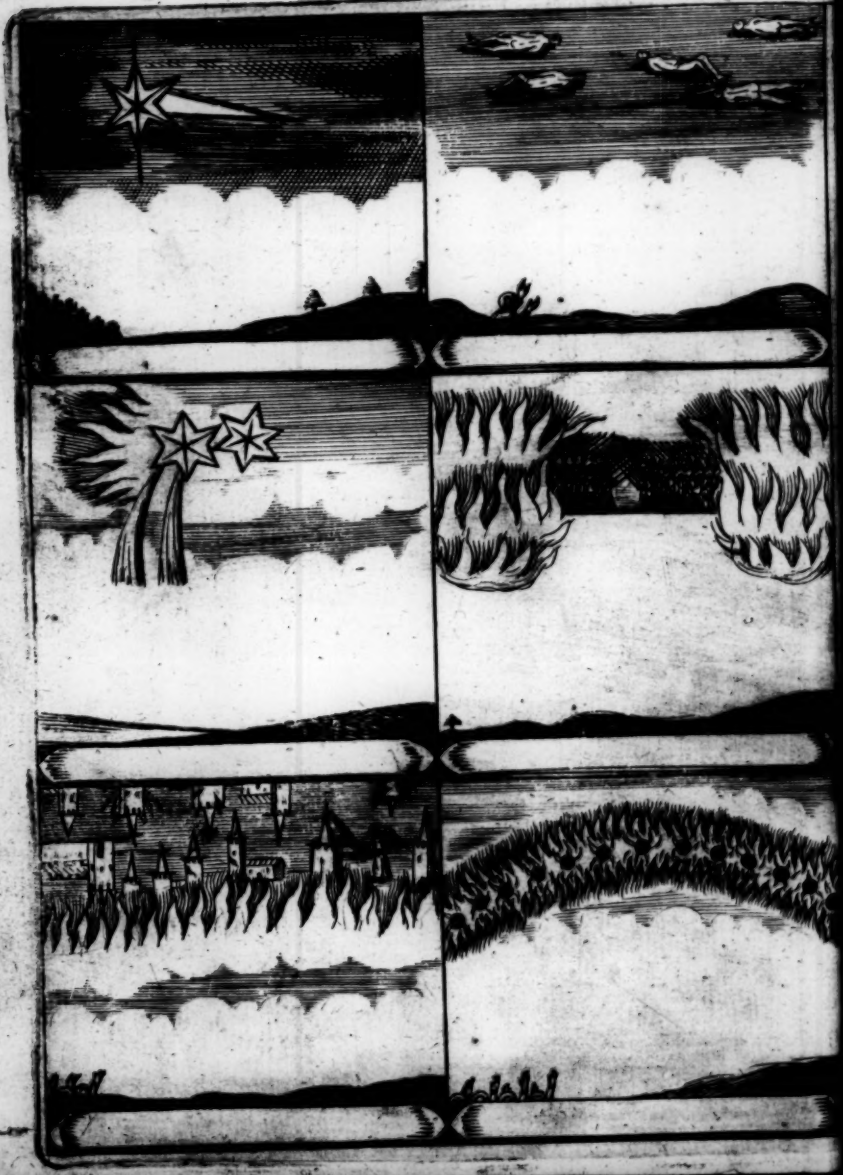

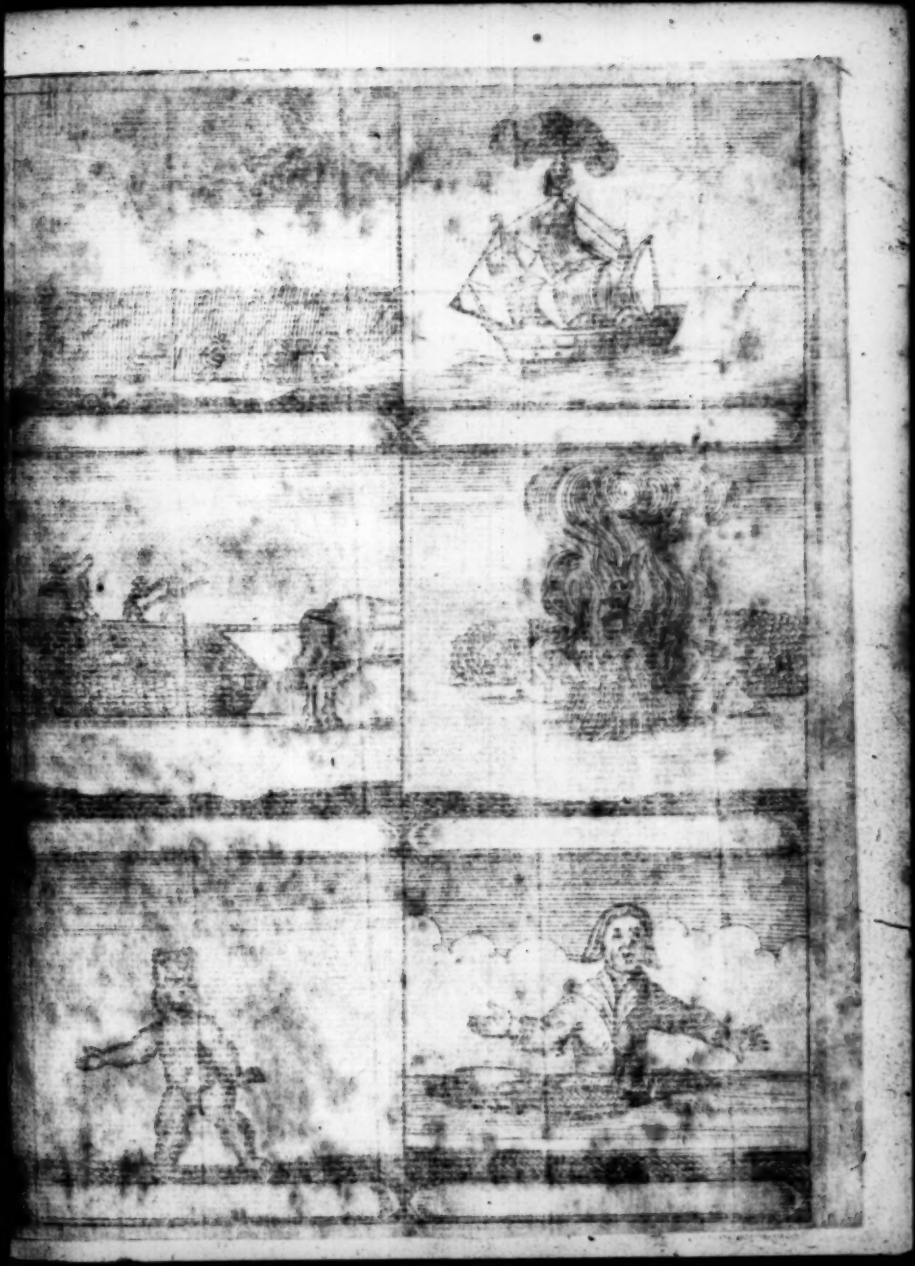

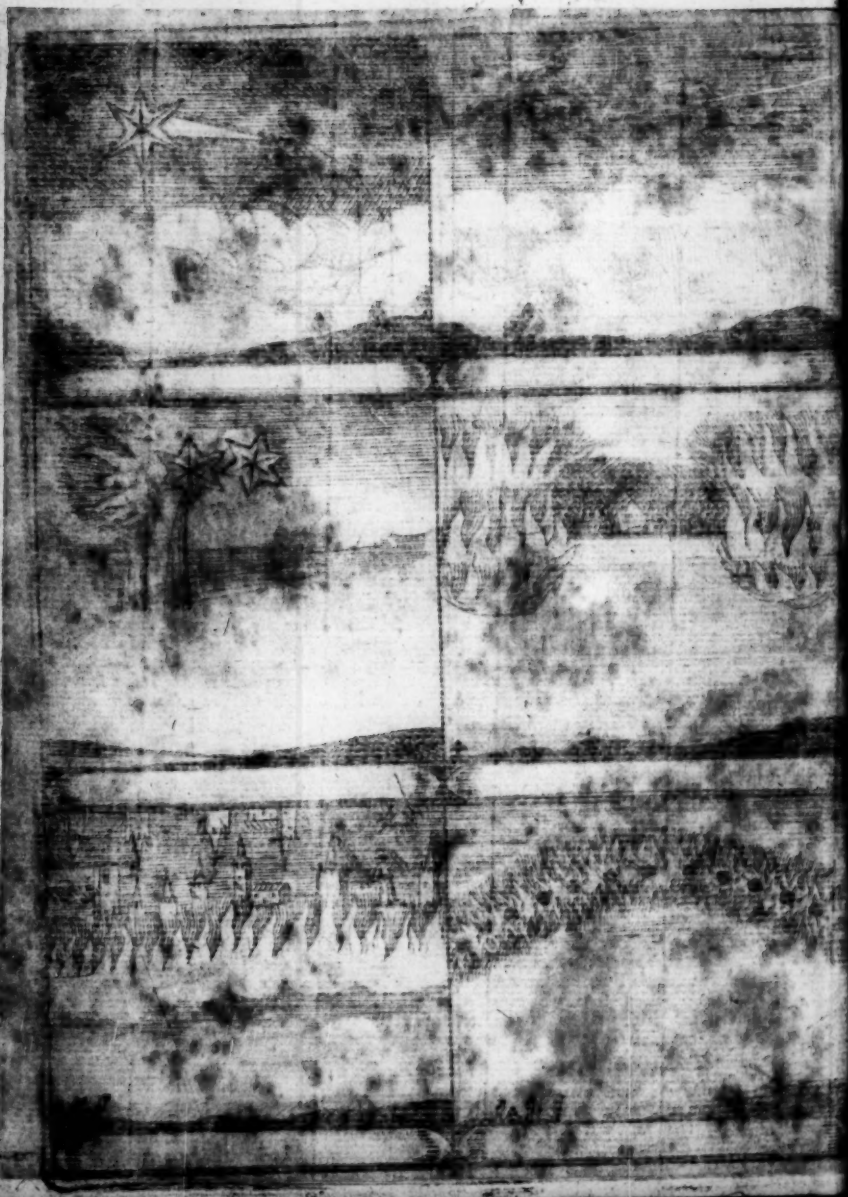

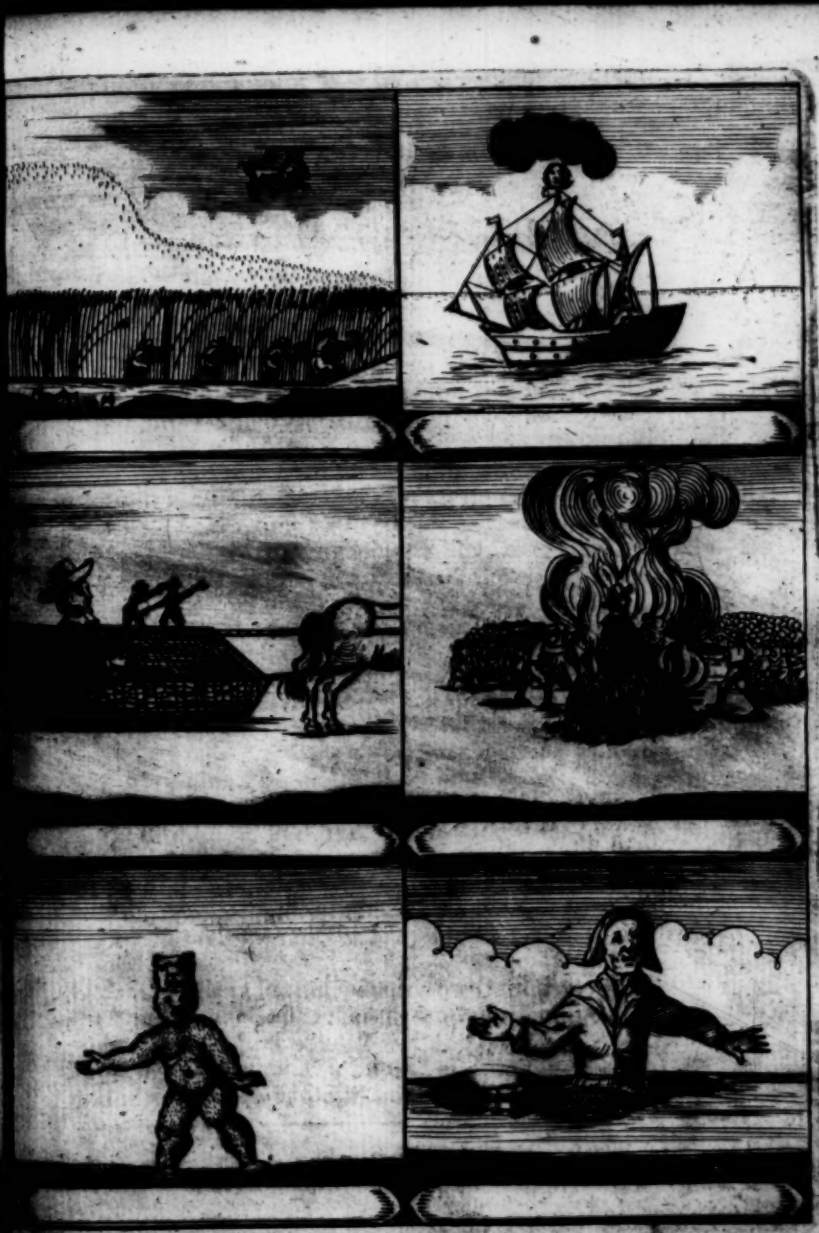

458-572 to 574

The Preface.

THe moſt *natural* and *frequent* works of *God*, ought to be the daily ſubjects not onely of the ſerious *conſideration* but *admiration* alſo of every ſober Chriſtian; *Eliphaz* in *Job* reckons the ordinary Occurrences of natural cauſes as the rain, *&c.* amongſt the *great unſerchable and marvellous things of God*, for indeed nothing leſſe then the admirable, infinite, and tranſcendent Wiſdom, Power, and Majeſty of the mighty *Jehovah* is clearly manifeſted, in the moſt *common* and *uſual* conſtitutions of nature, the whole World being nothing elſe but Gods Book in Folio, and every Creature and Providence as a ſeveral page, in which we may plainly read *his eternal Power and God-head*; or like to *Jacobs* ladder, the top in Heaven and the foot on Earth. Job. 5. 9, 10. Rom. 1. 20.

Yea God many times appears greateſt in the ſmalleſt things, he is more eminently ſeen in the activity of the ſouls of the *Dwarf* and *Ant* then of the *Giant* and *Elephant*.

Some of the Ancients have affirmed, that the ordinary productions of nature are more *wonderful* then thoſe things which do obtain a more formal denomination of *miracles*, making the multiplication of a grain of corn in the earth, a greater wonder then the multiplying of the *five loaves* by our Saviour, *wherewith he fed five thouſand*. If God then had limited the diſcoveries of himſelf to the world in theſe common wayes and means, he had not *left himſelf without witneſſe*, but all men certainly *without excuſe*, whiles in defiance of theſe *impregnable* proofs and demonſtrations of a *Deity*, they do remain willfully ignorant, and brutiſhly immerſe themſelves in the ſtinking lake of an *Atheiſtical* and *Diabolical* converſation. But that God might adde to this way of manifeſting himſelf the utmoſt degree of complement and perfection, and that he might alſo *ex abundanti* prepare a *ſovereign* and *ſufficient* antidote againſt deſperate Atheiſm and Irreligion amongſt rational creatures, he doth many times beyond, above, yea ſometimes contrary to the ordinary courſe of things, *make his wonderful works to be remembred*; he doth indeed ſet bounds to nature, and will not ſuffer it at any time *to overflow its banks*, but he will not limit himſelf, for *whatſoever the Lord pleaſes that doth he in Heaven and in Earth, in the Seas, and in all deep places*, he will ſometimes *do great things paſt finding out, yea, and wonders without number*. Upon this account it is that the *Pſalmiſt* contemplating the wonderful *ſigns* and *judgments* by which *God* did make way for the compleat deliverance of his People out of *Egyptian* bondage, breaks forth into this triumphant challenge, *Who is ſo great a God as our God? Thou art the God that doeſt wonders, thou haſt declared thy ſtrength amongſt the People*. Now it is the ſcope and deſign of the enſuing *Narrative* to repreſent God unto the world in his *high* and *eminent* capacity as a *wonder-working God*, and to that purpoſe we could not but record and publiſh ſome of thoſe *μεγάλια θεοῦ*, which by impartial and diligent hands have been faithfully gleaned out of ſeveral parts of the Nation, and are here put together under their proper heads, according

Mirabilior eſt grani in terra multiplicatio quam illa quinque panum. *Auguſt. tract. 24. in Johan.* John 6. 9, 10, 11. Acts 14. 17.

Pſal. 111. 4. Pſal. 135, 6. Job 9, 10.

Pſalm 77, 14.

to their respective dates, whereunto we have also added a few suitable Parallels to some of them, as we have been furnished with them from our most Authentick Historians, and as we had opportunity and leisure to find them out.

But before we proceed a step further, (that we might take away all occasion of mis-belief from any that may seek occasion) we do make the same solemn *protestation* which *Lycosthenes* did in the like case, *before God, Angels, and Men*, that we have not *feigned* any one of the particulars here inserted, nor so much as a *Circumstance* relating to any of them, but have *faithfully* and *impartially* published them as they were communicated to us from *credible persons*, whose proofs also we scanned and weighed to the uttermost, and received ample satisfaction in the validity thereof, before we made them publick, casting away many things which we could not but judge *probable*, because not satisfied in the *certainty* of them; Neither let the *paucity* of the Spectators of many of the particulars be a stumbling stone to any, seeing onely the *Magi* saw *the Star that led to Christ*, and a few *Shepheards* the *Heavenly Host* which proclaimed the birth of our Saviour, and upon the credit of their Testimony both those things are inserted in the sacred story. And now having given (as we hope) a *satisfactory* account in the Premises, we shall go on to tell the *Reader* that the *signs* and *Prodigies* contained in the ensuing Discourse, are in the selves like the *hand-writing* upon the the wall in *Belshazzars* Pallace, which the *South Sayers, Astrologers*, and *Chaldeans* could neither understand nor read, but the *Saints* may with Gods *Heifer* come to know his *Riddles*. *The wise shall understand.*

The things that are here presented to the Reader are *various*, and *remarkable*, the particulars seen in the Heavens are in number fifty four, those in the Earth twenty three, those in the Waters ten, the Accidents and Judgements befalling several persons twenty seven, all those, which have been collected but by a *few hands*, (there being we are perswaded many more which have not come to our knowledge) have happened within the compasse of a *year*, the like we believe a *whole age* hath scarce produced in times past, the Lord therein shewing great mercy and compassion to the people of these Nations, that though he hath suffered this year so many *hundreds*, not *thousands* of our able, godly, *preaching Ministers* to be *removed into corners*, yet the defect of their Ministry hath been *eminently* supplied by the *Lords* immediate preaching to us from *Heaven*, in the great and wonderful works of his Providence, which *Eusebius* calls τὰ θεῖα μηχανήματα *Gods sermons*, which this year come to more then two hundred according to the foregoing *calculation*.

And if (according to the opinion of learned men, such as *Luther, Voetius, Weems*, &c.) Prodigies and signs are *especially* for the sakes of *wicked and ungodly men*, *Aarons Rod budded for a token against the Rebels*. Then from the vast disproportion of their number this year, to what they were for many years together in the times foregoing, we may easily guesse at the prodigious increase of the most bruitish prophanesse, Atheism, uncleannesse, murders, blasphemy and superstition that *this single year* hath produced, beyond all the presidents which former times have acquainted us with. And surely by these hainous and

Licet autem multa in his inveniuntur quæ rationem ac fidem hominum excedant, &c.

Testis tamen mihi erit Deus, qui admirabilis est in operibus suis, ac ipsa eri am coram eodem conscientia salva qua affirmare possum me nihil confinxisse, sed omnia aut ipse oculis meis vidisse aut ab amicis indubitatæ amen fidei explorate potui *Lycost de Prod. Epist. nuncupat.*

Mat. 2, 2.

Luke 2. 8, 9, &c.

Dan. 5. 8.

Dan. 12. 10.

Euseb. Eccles. Hist. Lib 3. cap 8.

Numb. 17. 10.

In *Germany*, as their wickedness and debauchery did increase, so did the prodigies & strange supernatural accidents multiply exceedingly, *Hist. Iron Age* p. 66.

and unparralel'd enormities, the *Jealous* God hath been exceedingly provoked, and by his remarkable and ſtrange Signs in the Heavens, the Earth, and the Waters, doth in a moſt dreadful manner Alarm the ungodly world; they are not onely the *Meſſengers*, but *Harbingers* alſo of Divine indignation, to ſuch as are *obſtinate* in their wickedneſs, *who ſay in their hearts there is no God*, and lead a life worſe then that of the people in the time of *Noah*.

We ſhall not dare to be poſſitive in a particular application of all, or any of the portents mentioned in the following Hiſtory, knowing it would reliſh of too much boldneſſe and preſumption to peep into the Ark of Divine Secrets. We ſhall in this caſe ſubſcribe to the judgement of the Learned *Voetius*, who accounts it no leſſe then a *Nefas* to apply Prodiges to particular perſons, *ſine extraordinario & peculiari θεοπνευστῳ*, which we do not in the leaſt pretend unto; therefore according to the caution given by the ſame Author, we ſhall avoid *Cacoethes illud* as he calls it, and conclude with *Balduin*, *præſtat ergo talia in ſilentio & ſpe committere Deo quam divinando temeritatem prodere*; *It is better in ſilence and hope, to leave things of this nature to God, then by attempting to prognoſticate any thing from them, thereby to betray our own raſhneſſe*. Onely we ſhall be bold to hint thus much, that accidents of this kind do portend the futurition or manifeſtation of ſome things as yet not exiſtent or not known, which uſually carry in them ſome kind of agreement and aſſimulation to the Prodigies themſelves, as (according to the opinion of ſome learned men) *the raining of bloud* may ſignifie much ſlaughter, *the noiſe of Guns and the apparition of Armies in the Air*, wars and commotions, *great inundations*, popular tumults and inſurrections, yet ſtill we muſt know that God is unſearchable in his wayes, and our moſt *critical* and *exact* obſervations, together with our beſt experiences will not capacitate us *fully* to trace him through the Maze and Labyrinth of his providences, his way being as *Solomon* ſpeaks, *like the way of a ſhip in the ſea*. However, that the following diſcourſe might be the more profitable (ſo far as the Scriptures with the modeſt conjectures of the moſt ſober amongſt the learned will warrant us) we ſhall here briefly inſert a few of thoſe *general* things which commonly prove the *iſſues and events* of ſuch *prodigious apparitions* as the enſuing Hiſtory gives us an account of,

Voetius de ſignis, &c. page 901.
Voet. de ſig. &c page 930.
Baldvinus lib. 3. caſ. p. 813.
prov. 30 19.

1. They do uſually fore ſignifie ſome remarkable *changes* and *revolutions* which bring with them very ſad *calamities* and *diſtreſſes* to the generality of the people, amongſt whom they happen; *our Saviour* himſelf ſhews us a *neceſſary* connexion between *ſigns in the ſun and in the Moon, and in the ſtars, and upon the earth diſtreſſe of Nations with perplexity*. Great are the influences which theſe things have in a natural way upon States and Kingdoms in the world, it being a received Maxim amongſt the meer *Naturaliſts*, that ſome conſiderable mutations and concuſſions are the uſual products of them, but certainly their vertue and Operation is far greater, as they are *ordained of God* to portend and ſignifie the moſt dreadful and important Revolutions of his providence. Theſe did our *Saviour himſelf* inſtitute and appoint as the certain Signs and immediate forerunners of that fore deſtruction ſo often threatned, and at laſt ſo ſeverely executed by *Titus Veſpaſian* upon *Jeruſalem*. Great honour is likewiſe given to them

Luke 21. 25.
συνοχὴ ἐθνῶν ἐν ἀπορίᾳ
Anxietas gentium in conſilii inopia, *Beza*.

them by Christ in that he reckons them amongst the *Portents* and *Presages* of his second coming. We shall therefore conclude this with those Instances which the *Reverend* and *Learned* Dr. *Jackson* hath furnished us with, viz. That Testimony of *Herodotus* (who lived before *Alexander the Great*, but after *Cyrus* had taken the City *Babylon*) his words (as they are quoted by the said *Author*) are these *quotiès ingentes sunt eventura Calamitates vel Civitati, vel Nationi solent Signis pranunciari, extraordinary calamities whether such as befall Cities or peculiar Signiories are alwaies fore-shewen by some sign or other.* His other instance is that of *Machiavel*, of whom he saies, that he was a man as free from Superstition or vain Credulity as any other Writer that hath been born and bred amongst *Christians*, yet he out of his own Reading and Experience hath made the same induction with *Herodotus*, but somewhat more full, *ut causam faciè me confitebor ignorare, ita rem ipsam cum ex antiquis, tum novis exemplis agnoscere oportet, & confiteri omnes magnos motus, quicunque aut urbium regioni evenerunt, vel a conjecturis vel a revelatione aliquâ Prodigiis, aut Cœlestibus Signis prædici aut pranunciari solere, As I must needs confesse my self ignorant of the cause, so the thing it self I cannot but acknowledge to be true, both from antient and modern examples, that the motions and changes which have at any time happened either to Cities or Countryes, have still been foretold or pre-declared either by some Southsayers, or else by some discoveries from Prodigies or Signes in the Heavens*; And afterwards the same *Machiavel* affirms, that the severall *Changes* which happened in *Italy* in his time, were still presaged by divers remarkable *Signes* and *Prodigies*, whereof he gives particular instances in the Chapter before cited.

Dr. *Jacksons* Sermon preached before K. *Cha.* 1: on *Luke* 13, 5. page 9.

Dr *Jackson ibid* p. 10.

Machiavelli disp. de Republica, lib. 1 cap. 56. page 229.

Ibid. page 230. Et ne procul petitis exemplis hoc demonstrare velle videar domesticis utar, *&c.* A Signis Cæli hujus modi paveant impii, *&c* Voet de Signis page 927.

2 They do bode very much misery and calamity to the *prophane* and *wicked* part of the World (except although and seasonable repentance and turning to God do intervene) the *Mene Tekel* on the Wall did signifie evil to *Belshazzar*, who though he knew all that God had done to his *Father*, yet *humbled not his heart, but lifted up himself against the Lord of Heaven*, and by his *presence at least* did keep up and encourage *drunken and debauched meetings*, wherein the *Vessels of the Temple* (the spoiles of the Lords people) were *prophaned*, the *High* God *blasphemed*, *and the Gods of Gold, and of Silver, of Brass, of Iron, of Wood and of Stone were praised* and magnified; and sayes the Text in *that same hour came forth fingers of a mans hand, &c.* So that God by a prodigie doth sharply reprove the debauchery of this King and his Concubines, with the rest of his *Associates*, and thereby also declares the sudden period and determination of his *Kingdom*.

Dan. 5, 22, 23.

Dan. 5, 3, 3. Inconsilio Vini. Abenezra.

Verse 4.

Verse 5.

Verse 28.

But amongst the *Hellish* rout of prophane and ungodly men, let *especially* the *Oppressors* and *Persecutors of the True Church* look to themselves, when the hand of the Lord in strange Signes and Wonders is lifted up among them; for *then* let them know assuredly *that the day of their Calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste* The totall and finall overthrow of *Pharoah* and the *Ægiptians* (those cruell Task-Masters and Oppressors of the Israelites) did bear date not long after the *Wonderfull* and *Prodigious Signes* which the Lord had shewn in the mid'st of them; Neither could the Nation of the *Jews* (*who were both the betrayers and murderers of the Lord of Life and Glory*, and did persecute his *Apostles* and *Disciples from City*

Deut. 31, 35.

to

to City) escape those sad and dreadfull effects of the *Signes* and *Prodigies* which Christ long before foretold and forewarned them by, and were indeed according to our Saviours Predictions, the doleful Messengers of the approaching ruine both of *themselves*, their *City* and *Temple*: O that therefore all the Enemies of *Sion* (who make it their work to *tread the Holy City under foot*) would betimes before the effects of this years wonders take place against them, truly repent, and be ashamed of all their enmity against the faithfull Servants of the *most High God*, least his wrath break forth *and there be none to deliver*.. Rev. 11. 2.

3 They do usually Prognosticate very much good to the *Sober* and *Religious* part of the World, that which severely threatens the ruine and destruction of others, doth clearly portend the security and preservation of their interest.

Those signall Predictions of *Pharoahs* and the *Ægyptians* overthrow did yet assure the *Israelites* of *their* speedy deliverance and departure *out of the House of bondage*; Therefore when the Psalmists had largely discoursed of those *Signes* which God did shew in *Ægypt*, he concloudes with these words, *he made his own people to go forth like Sheep, and guided them in the Wilderness like a Flock, and he led them on safely so that they feared not, but the Sea over-whelmed their enemies*, yea the very first discovery that ever the Lord made of saving that *People*, was by the *Prodigie* of a burning bush. *David* also speaking of great *Earthquakes*, sad and dark *Eclypses*, terrible *Storms*, strange *Fiery Meteors* in the Heavens, dreadfull *Thunders* and *Lightnings*, &c. makes the end of all this to be nothing else but his own *Deliverance*; Therefore he sayes in the close of all, *he sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many Waters, he delivered me from my strong Enemy and from them that hated me, for they were too strong for me*. The greatest blessing likewise that ever the Church received, viz. (the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ (who came into the world on purpose *to save his people from their sins*) was ushered in with the appearance of a strange and unusuall *Star* in the *East*, whereof *Chalcidius* in his Comment upon *Plato's Timæus* takes great notice because it signified the coming down of a God in favour to the Salvation of men, as Dr. *Hammond* hath well observed in his Comment on *Mat.* 2. 2. Those very *Signes* also which according to *Christs* prophesie did point at the miserable *Desolation* of *Jerusalem*, did notwithstanding presage the giving of the *Holy Ghost* to the *Apostles*, and the first *Gospel Church*, as *Peter* himself affirms in his *Apology* for the *Disciples*. And indeed these strange *Prodigies* were long before by the Propher *Joel* prophesied of, as the *Harbingers* of that new and Spiritual dispensation under the Gospel according to his *excellent connection*, *I will powre out my Spirit upon all flesh, And I will shew wonders in the Heavens*, &c. Which *Peter* in the forementioned *Scripture* makes to be fulfilled in that *wonderfull* effusion of the *Spirit* on the day of *Penticost*.

Prodigia beneficia credentibus, maleficia & horrifica incredulis. Com. A. Lap. Com. In Joel 2, 30. Psal 78, 52, 53.

Exod. 3, 2. 7. Sam. 2. 22. Chap. Verse 8, 9. 10, 11. 12, 13, 14, 15.

Verse 17, 18.

Mat. 2. 2.

Est quoque alia venerabilior & sanctior Historia quæ perhibet ortu stellæ cujusdam insolitæ non montes modo moresque prænunciatos, sed descensum Dei venerabilis ad humanæ servationis remeque mortalium gratiam, &c. Vide Dr. Hammond In Mat. 2. 2. Chap.

Acts 2, 14, 15, 16. Joel 2. 28, 29, 30. Mat. 24. 30. Luke 21. 28.

Yea further, our Lord *Jesus Christ himself*, when he speaks of the severall *Signes* that shall preceed his *second coming*, (at the sight whereof *all the Tribes of the Earth shall mourn*) yet encourages *his people to lift up their heads with joy, because their Redemption draweth nigh*

Upon which words *Luther* thus descants, *behold saies he this notable Instructer*,

Luthers 1 Serm. on Luke 21. 25, 26, &c. page 27, There is also a second Sermon of Luthers on the same Text, now lately translated and published, in which he much encourages the Godly, To hope and rejoyce in the Lord, when his Signes and wonders do appear, that Sermon is well worth the Reading. Verse 29, 30. Sermon ibid. page 66, 67.

instructor, who knoweth better how to expound Signes and Tokens to come, then any Southsayer or Astrologer, they onely prognosticate terrible and horrible events thereof, but he (unto whom nothing is unknown) doth foretel them to be tokens of all goodnesse to his people; And again in the same *Sermon* he observes that the happy and comfortable issues of those *Signes* to the *Godly*, our *Saviour* doth plainly interpret by the *Parable* and *Similitude* which he makes use of to that purpose. 'Behold saies he 'the fig tree, and all the Trees when they now shoot forth, ye see 'and know of your own selves that Summer is now nigh at hand, 'etc. Doubtless saies *Luther on these words*, this is a notable exposition 'which I my self could never invent, nor apply to this purpose, for 'whoever heard that the darkning of the Sun and Moon the de'struction of the Heaven and Earth, should be likened to the shooting 'out of buds, and the blosoming of trees; I would think rather that 'these things should be likened to a rough, sharp, and very hard 'Winter, which with intolerable cold destroyeth and killeth all 'Fruits, and whatsoever groweth upon the Earth. But our Savi'our Christ (of all others the best interpreter and expounder of his 'Word) expoundeth these Signes after another sort, better to our 'comfort and Consolation; So that now if we see the Sun and the 'Moon darkned, the Water and the Winds stormy and tempestu'ous, he teaches us then to say thanks be to God, for now the plea'sant Summer is at hand, now we see the spring of the leaf in some 'trees, and other some to shoot out their buds, &c. Upon this consideration therefore let all the *Lords* faithfull people observe the *Prophets* Counsel, *not to be dismayed at the Signes of Heaven*; But rather with the *Psalmist* let us *Triumph in the works of Gods hands*, and abound in Thanksgiving and Rejoycing, for *that his name is near his wondrous works declare*.

Jer. 10.
2 A Signis Cælorum ne consternemini, Jun.
Psal. 92. 4.
Psal. 75, 1.
Ad liberandum invocantem.
Aben Ezra.
Joel 2. 31, 32.

Let us comfort our selves with this, that where God doth threaten *that the Sun shall be turned into darkness, and the Moon into blood, &c.* In the very next verse he is pleased to make a gracious promise, *That whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved, For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance as the Lord hath sayed, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.* But we shall no longer detain the *Reader* from the sight and perusal of the ensuing *Collection*, which we desire to accompany with our prayers, that all who read it may lay to heart the things contained in it, and take heed they *despise not the works of the Lord, nor the operation of his hands*, least according to his threatning *he destroy them and not build them up*, but let every one rather from these things be convinced, that upon us the ends of the world are come, and that God is now making hast *to consummate* his *whole* work in the earth, and to prepare the way for his *Son to take unto himself his great power and reign*. All these prodigies being according to our Saviours own prediction, but præludiums to that signal and last revolution which makes way for *the new Heavens and the new Earth wherein dwells Righteousnesse, And if we look for such things, let us be diligent that we may be found of him in Peace, without spot, and blameless.*

Psalm 28. 5.

2 Peter 3. 13.

Verse 14.

July 25, 1661. Amen.

Several Prodigies and Apparitions ſeen in the Heavens from Auguſt the 1. 1660. to the latter end of May, 1661.

I.

SEveral perſons who were reaping Wheat in a Field about a quarter of a Mile from *Hertford*, near ſix of the Clock in the Evening, *Auguſt* 1. 1660. eſpyed two Suns in the Firmament, the One Weſt, the Other more Northerly at ſome diſtance each from other; they were as they judged of equal height and bigneſſe, and beams did iſſue from both, only that more Northerly ſhone not ſo bright as the other. They continued in their view near half an hour, and then were both overſhadowed by a cloud. This is Teſtified by honeſt credible perſons who were eye-witneſſes.

Two Suns ſeen near *Hertford*, *Aug.* 1. 1660.

Naturaliter portendunt & pranunciant Pluvias. Zanch. *de operibus Dei*, p. 348. *Parhelius eſt magnum pluviarum ſignum.* Hor. Triſmeg. *l.* 5. p. 473. *Ex Dei autem ordinatione varia ejus Judicia, vel Bella, vel Fames*, &c. Zanc. *ibid.* Pucerus, *Lib.* Meteorolog. p. 340.

Theſe παρήλιοι, as the Greeks call them, do naturally portend much moyſture and rainy weather.

*But God ordaines them (as ſome learned men conceive) to ſignifie ſeverall Judgments, as War, Famine, and Peſtilence. Some do affirm, they portend the * fall of Great Men from their power, who rule with pride and diſdain. They alſo ſignifie (as others do conjecture)*

* As it happened *Anno* 1156. 2 Suns appear'd, prognoſticating the death of *Tho. Becket* Arch-B. of *Cant.* an inſolent proud Prelate. *Lycoſt.* p. 412.

jecture) *diſturbances and innovations in matters of Religion.*

There were two Suns ſeen in England *at one time, ſhining at a good diſtance from each other in the beginning of Queen* Maries *reign*: *See* Bakers *Chron.* p. 346.

Several Suns were ſeen near Prague, *about the time of the dreadful perſecution which the Proteſtants ſuſtained there from the hands of the bloody Papiſts. See* Boheim. *Hiſt.* p. 355.

II.

The likeneſſe of a Ship ſeen in the Air at *Stratford* Bow near *London.*

IN the ſame month alſo was ſeen at *Stratford Bow* near *London*, the likeneſſe of a great Ship in the Air, which by degrees leſſened till it came to be as ſmall as a mans Arm, but kept its form all the while, and at laſt diſappeared. This is teſtified by an able Miniſter living not far from the place; who received the Information from the ſpectators themſelves.

III.

A Rain-bow of a blood-red colour ſeen before Sun-riſing, at *Southo* in *Huntingtonſhire.*

ABout the ſame time at *Southo* in *Huntingtonſhire*, was ſeen before Sun-riſing, in the Weſt and by North, a Rain-bow of a blood-red colour, it gave forth brightneſſe, as if the Sun had been riſing in that part of the Heavens, after it had continued for a while, a great red cloud by degrees ſwallowed it up. This is teſtified by a very credible perſon who lived not far from *Southo*, and did ſpeak with ſeveral who were eye-witneſſes.

IV.

Seven Stars ſeen to fall down perpendicularly.

A Gentleman of good quality, and an Officer of Eminency in the late Kings-Army, & now a Juſtice of Peace in his Country, having occaſion to be at *London* about the month of *September*, 1660: as he was going

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ing over *Smithfield* about ten of the Clock at night to his Lodgings in *Bartholomews* cloſe, perceiving ſeveral people looking up into the Heavens, did himſelf alſo look up & eſpied towards the South-weſt a bright Star of a more then ordinary bigneſſe, and encompaſſed with ſix leſſer Stars; whilſt he with ſeveral others were with ſome Admiration beholding them, they all fell down perpendicularly and vaniſhed. This Gentlemans Lady being at the ſame time in her Lodgings and looking out at the window, expecting her Husbands coming, ſaw the ſame thing, with all the circumſtances of it, a perſon of very good credit received this Information from both their mouths.

It is a thing rarely heard of, that ſuch exhalations ſhould move perpendicularly, but rather obliquely which is their natural motion. *Vide Herm. Triſmeg. l. 5. p. 518.*

V.

AT *Hull* about two of the Clock in the morning, *Octob.* 3. 1660. the Souldiers upon the Guard at the South Blockhouſe, ſaw the Appearance of a great Body of Fire at South-eaſt, the form of it (to uſe the Spectators own terms) was as big at one end as a great Sheet, from which went a narrow ſtream of fire, which they judged to be many yards long; it gave ſuch a light, that according to their report (though immediatly before & after it was very dark) yet they could ſee to read a very ſmal print, or take up a pin from off the ground; his continued about the ſpace of half an hour and then vaniſhed.

A great body of fire ſeen at *Hull Octob.* 3. 1660.

The ſame morning alſo one Travellling from *Lincolnſhire* towards *Hull* ſaw a very great light in the ſky, whereby he could perfectly diſcern his way, though before it was exceeding dark; this upon his arrival at *Hull* that day, he affirmed to divers perſons there. And the whole Relation is ſignified by Letters from ſeveral eminent Men in *Hull* who ſpake with the eye-witneſſes, as alſo by ſome Inhabitants in *London*, who upon occaſion have been at *Hull* ſince that time, and there from very good hands have received credible and ſatiſ-

ſatory information concerning the premiſes.

VI.

A Rain-bow ſeen between 11 and 12 of the clock at night, *Octob.* 5. 1660.

October 5. 1660. between 11 and 12 of the clock at night, was ſeen near the New Artillery ground a very fair Rainbow with the uſual colours in it, that did ſeem to ſtand directly over the Moon, which at that time did ſhine extraordinary bright. The Information we received from a very credible perſon who was an eye witneſſe.

Plin. Nat. Hiſt. l. 2. c. 59.
Zanch. ſays that this *Iris Lunaris* differs from the other in reſpect of the colour; for in this he ſayes there is but *unus tantum color albus nimium. Vid. Zanch. de operibus Dei*, p. 353.
He ſayes it portends *longam tempeſtatem aurumq; inſtabilem. Ibid.* p. 356.

Pliny *makes it to be an impoſſible thing in nature, that a Rain-bow ſhould be at any time ſeen in the Night, though he confeſſeth that* Ariſtotle *doth affirme, that once ſuch a thing happened, but it was when the Moon was at Full. But if what* Ariſtotle *ſays were true, (which* Pliny *much queſtions) yet ſtill what hath been above related concerning the Rain-bow ſeen in the night when the Moon was not at the Full, muſt needs be acknowledged to be no ordinary thing: the meaning* and import whereof, the Lord may in due time diſcover; which we pray that he will turn for good to all that tremble at his Word and Works.

VII.

A ſtrange Comet ſeen at *Hertford*, *Octob.* 11. 1660.

A Perſon of very good Note and Credit living at *Hertford*, awaking about 4 of the clock in the morning, *Octo.* 11. 1660. perceived a flaſhing like fire againſt his window, and fearing ſome houſe near him had been on fire, he immediately aroſe and went to his window, and looking up perceived a Star about the bigneſſe of the palm of his hand, it had a dusky Circle about it, two ſtraiks near half a yard long a piece went through the midſt of it, which both above and below did ſend forth continually great Flaſhes of Fire; it ſtood directly North and South, and on the South ſide of it, was a point

a point about half a quarter of a yard long, this continued for ſome hours and then diſapeared; it was ſeen alſo by ſeveral other credible perſons at *Hertford*, from whom this Relation comes.

VIII.

A Meteor in the Form of a Dart ſeen hanging over *London.*

MUch about the ſame time was ſeen by ſeveral perſons neer *Hornſy* a Flame of fire in the form of a Dart; which according to the apprehenſions of the ſpectators hung directly over the City of *London.*

This is by the Philoſopher called *Belin. Vid. Magiri. Phyſol. l.* 4. *c.* 2.

IX.

2 Meteors like a Ship-ſtreamer or a Beeſom ſeen in *Woodſtreet, Octob.* 12. 1660.

IN *Woodſtreet, London*, upon the 12. of *Octo.* 1660. about four of the clock in the afternoon was ſeen by ſeveral of the Inhabitants there, a fiery Meteor in the form of a Ship-ſtreamer, or as others apprehended of a Beeſome, with the great end formoſt about two yards in length; it paſſed with a very ſwift motion from Weſt to Eaſt, And as ſome of the ſpectators do affirm, it made a great noiſe as it paſſed by, immediately upon it followed another of the ſame form, but not of the ſame bigneſſe. The Information comes from eye-witneſſes.

Such a prodigious ſign in this Form, though of longer continuance, appeared in Anno 1550. *when the perſecution began to wax hot in* Scotland *againſt the profeſſors of the Truth. Vid. Clarkes* Prodigies, *pag.* 490.

X.

Five naked men ſeen in the Air at *Shenley, Octob.* 17. 1660.

AT *Shenley* in *Hertfordſhire*, (*Octob.* 17. 1660. being the day wherein Colonel *Scroop*, Col. *Jones*, and ſome Others were Executed at *Charing-croſs*) was ſeen in the Aire towards the Evening, the Sky being very clear, the appearance of five naked Men exceeding bright and glorious, moving very ſwiftly, and after a little

little time a great Hill intercepted the ſight of them. The Report of this was received from an Eye-witneſs, who is not in the leaſt ſuſpected to be a Phanatique, but hath given evident proof of the contrary; he doth conſtantly affirm the Truth of it, and offers to confirm it by his Oath.

XI.

A bright Star appearing at noonday over the Quarters which were ſet up upon *Algate*.

NOt long after this, *viz.* the ſame day when the Quarters of the ſeveral Executed perſons were ſet up upon the Gates of the City, there appeared at Noon-day a bright Star over *Algate*, for two or three hours together, and continued ſo for four or five days; Of this many hundreds in the City paſſing that way, together with the adjacent Inhabitants were daily ſpectators during the time before ſpecified.

XII.

Seven Pillars of Smoke ſeen aſcending from the *Quarters* over *Biſhops-gate*. Two Quarters more having been ſince ſet upon the ſame Gate.

ALſo at *Biſhops-gate* there appeared ſeven Pillars of ſmoke, (one whereof was bigger then the reſt) aſcending from the Seven quarters, which were firſt ſet up upon the Gate; they reached up towards Heaven as high as the beholders could well diſcern.

XIII.

Three Moons were ſeen at *Titſie* in *Surrey*, *Octob.* 29. 1660.

AT *Titſie* in *Surrey*, *Octob.* 29. 1660. about 8 or 9 of the clock in the Evening, there appeared in the Heavens three Moons of equal bigneſſe and brightneſſe at a little diſtance from each other: The Relation comes from eye-witneſſes, who were many, and ſome of good note and quality.

In Ireland, *Anno* 1342, *October* 11. *the Moon being* 11. *daies old*, *were ſeen at* Dublin *two Moons*. Camb. Brit

Brit. *Ireland*, p. 188. *Alſo in the moneth of* March, *Anno* 1551, *in the year wherein the Duke of* Somerſet *was beheaded, and the Diſputes were in* Germany *about Religion, and the French made war with the Emperour, three Moons were ſeen together here in* England: The *like happened alſo* Annis 1644. 1645, 1646, 1647. The *like happened a little before the bloody Wars between the* Romans *and* Carthaginians *brake forth.* Livius *Hiſt.*

XIV.

A fiery Meteor ſeen near *Miſden* in *Hertfordſhire*, from which did fall down perpendicularly 3 Stars, whereby the Earth was exceedingly enlightened.

The Meteor afterwards turned into the form of a Sickle, and then into the Form of a Sythe.

THree perſons Inhabitants of *Auſty* in *Hertfordſhire* going before Day, *Octob.* 30. 1660. with Malt-horſes to *Ware* Market, were on a ſudden ſmitten with a great and terrible Flaſh of Lightning; after which the Air continued very light, and grew brighter and brighter, and they looking from whence this great light ſhould come, ſaw, as they conceived, full Eaſt before them a very dreadful Fire, and concluded that ſome Houſe at *Miſden* had been on Fire; but they having not ridden much further perceived the fire in a great body to aſcend, and the Sky opening to receive it; and as it went up, three Stars one immediately after another fell down from it perpendicularly; and when they fell, the Earth ſeemed lighter then at any time by the brighteſt Moon-light: Some part of the body of fire which aſcended, remained yet in their view, and after a little ſpace it turned into the direct form of a ſickle with a handle, and afterwards it grew much like to a ſyth, and continued in that form till the day light ſwallowed it up: The ſpectators are very Credible Perſons from whom this Relation comes.

The

XV.

A fiery Meteor in the form of a Dragon seen between *Hadham* and *Ware*, *Octob.* 30. 1660.

THe same Morning also some going before day with their Carts from about *Hadham* side in *Hertfordshire* to *Ware*, saw a body of fire in the Sky, of divers colours like the Rain-bow, which presently turnd into the perfect form of a Dragon, and immediately fell down to the ground, and by the fall of it the Earth was so lightned, that they could have seen a penny upon the ground as the spectators themselves do affirm, from whom we have this whole Relation.

This kind of Meteor is called by the Philosopher Draco Volans. *And about the time of the* Bohemian *Persecution*, viz. *in the year* 1924. *such a fiery Dragon was seen throughout all* Bohemia *and* Silesia, vid. Bohe. *Hist.* p. 356. *The like also was seen in* Scotland November 25. 1656. *which was confirmed by several Letters from thence at that time a true and full description of it; together with the Portends thereof you have in a Book called* Miraculum Signum Cœleste, *page* 28. 29, *&c.*

XVI.

A body of fire ascending into the Air till it fixed it self in the Sky like a Star seen between *Hertford* & *London*, *Octob.* 30. 1660.

THe same morning likewise before Day when it was very dark, five Neighbours going from *Hertford* to *London*, did alight by the way and walked to get themselves a heat, & as they were getting up upon their Horses again, there came a sudden Flash of Fire which made it so light, that they could perfectly discern as at noon day any thing upon the ground, their Horses also seemed to be all on fire; but within a little space this body of fire rose up again into the Aire, with a Tayl about a Pole long, and went Eastward, where at last it fixed it self in the Sky like a Star.

Upon

XVII.

UPon the ſame morning very early, the Waggoner of *Wickham* in the County of *Bucks* came towards *London* with his Waggon and divers Paſſengers in it, about a mile from *Wickham* they all ſaw to their great affrightment, the Heavens open, and a large Ball of fire about the bigneſs (to uſe the Relaters own phraſe) of a great Kittle, in a terrible manner deſcending and falling as they conceived upon a Gentlemans houſe near a quarter of a mile from them, and they verily thought, becauſe the fire brake in pieces on the houſe, it had been ſet on fire by it, but afterwards they found it to be otherwiſe: immediately upon this they ſaw another ball of fire deſcending in the ſame manner with the former, which fell upon a Wood very near to the Road wherein they were travelling, and they conceived that the whole Wood had been in a flame: A third ball alſo came down and fell upon the Earth and was broken into ſeveral pieces; during this time which was about the ſpace of half an hour the Air was exceeding light, ſo that the Paſſengers in the Waggon could perfectly diſcern each other, and ſee to read an ordinary Print, but immediately after it was as dark as before. This Relation comes from ſome of the aforeſaid Paſſengers, and particularly from the Waggoner and his Wife.

A Ball of fire was ſeen to come out of the Heavens and fell upon a Gentlemans houſe.
Another fell upon a Wood.
And a third upon the Ground.
Theſe were ſeen *Oct.* 30 1660.

XVIII.

SEveral perſons on the ſame 30 of *October* going from *Uxbridge* to *Brainford* between 3 and 4 of the Clock in the morning, ſaw in the Sky a very great light ſtanding Eaſt and Weſt; that part towards the Eaſt was as broad as a very large Table; that part towards the Weſt ſeemed to them to be a Tayle of about 30 yards long as near as they could gueſſe, it did ſo

A fiery Meteor with a Tail 30 yards long, ſeen between *Uxbridge* & *Brainford*, *Octob.* 30 1660.

enlighten the air that they could see to read the smal lest print. It continued till near break of day, and then divided in the middle, half went to the East, and half to the West, and so by degrees disappeared: several Inhabitants of *Uxbridge* in their journey to *Brainford* and others at home in their houses were eye-witnesses hereof, & did relate it to a Citizen of *London* a person of known worth and integrity, from whom we received the Information.

The Parallel. *A Meteor much like this in form was seen near* Bristow *in the month of* January, *Anno* 1648. *which is published in print by an able godly Minister in* London, *who received the information from an eye-witnesse.* Vid. *Clarks* Prod. p. 483.

XIX.

A great bright star seen at Yelden in Bedfordshire, Octob 30 1660.

AT *Yelden* in *Bedfordshire* the same morning very early was seen a great Star which stood North-east and South-west, it gave so great a light, that some inhabitants there, who were up so soon that morning upon their occasions could see to do business in the house by the light of it: one credible person there beheld it two hours together, and at last saw it turn into the perfect form of a Roman S, and then presently it divided in the middle, and one half went to the North-east, and the other to the South-west, and so by degrees disappeared. Two other persons of credit in *Northampton shire*, not many miles from *Yelden*, saw the same morning a very great light in their chamber which they much wondred at, because it was not the time for the Moon to shine, but they not rising out of their beds saw not the Star as others did from whom this relation comes.

The Parallel. *In the year* 389. *a little before the* Scots *and the* Picts *invaded* Brittain, *did arise in the North a great Star much*

much bigger then the Day-star, and shined several mornings together, viz. discourse of Prod. p. 88.

XX.

A Bout five of the Clock in the morning the same 30 of *Octob.* 1660. 2 persons of credit who live near *Pickadilla*, going over the Field by the *Pall-mall*, heard a noise in the Air, as if a pound of Gunpowder had been fired; and looking up they say a body of fire bigger then the Moon, from which there issued a Stream of Fire towards the East about a Flight-shot in length and five foot in bredth; There were also two shorter Streams of Fire issuing from the same body South-east and South. This Relation comes from one of those two persons who were the eye-witnesses.

A fiery Meteor seen near *Pickadilla* a Flight-shot in length and 5 foot in bredth, *Octob.* 30. 1660.

XXI.

SEveral considerable persons near *Harleston* in *Norfolk* between 4 and 5 of the clock in the morning on the aforesaid 30 of *October*, saw a very great Fire in the Air flaming every way, and sparkling exceedingly, it seemed to them to roll up and down in the Air: and it gave so great a light, that one of the Relaters saith he could see to do any work as well as if he had had many Torches by him. This fiery Meteor after a while, as the Spectators conceived, grew into the proportion and shape of a man, and continued so for an hour, and then by degrees disappeared.

A fiery Meteor seen *Octob.* 30. 1660 near *Harleston*, which grew into the proportion and shape of a Man, and then vanished.

XXII.

TWo Inhabitants of *Ipswick* travelling between 3 & 4 of the clock the same morning towards *Thwayt* saw very strange and terrible Flashes of Lightning, and looking up they discerned in the Sky two great Balls of Fire, the one North-east, which was the greatest, the

Another fiery Meteor seen between *Ipswich* and *Thwyt* *Octob.* 30. 1660.

other South-west; the first glyding downward, divided it self into many small pieces sparkling, and after a while gathered up it self into a body again, and then turned into a Cloud of a blood-red Colour, and soon after vanished. They were so intent upon this in the North-east that they can give no account what became of that which appeared in the South-west. These two last particulars we received information of from a very worthy person who had an account of them from the Spectators themselves, men of repute and credit in the places of their habitation.

XXIII.

The appearance of 3 Heads seen in a bright Cloud between *Midhurst* and *Chichester*.

About the same day an Inhabitant of *Midhurst* in the County of *Sussex* going to *Chichester* about 10 of the clock in the forenoon, beheld one end of a Cloud exceeding bright like to the Sun it self, and presently there appeared the likeness of a Head with well set hair, and by it immediately appeared another Head, and so a Third, but they all quickly vanished away together.

XXIV.

A great Light covering the Ground for a Mile in compass, and then ascending like a Pillar of Fire, in which appeared an Arm brandishing a Flaming Sword.

About the begining of *Novemb.* certain Tradesmen going to *Thame* Faire, about two of the clock in the morning as they passed between the two *Wickhams* saw a very great Light upon the Ground, spreading it self near a mile in compass, very dreadful and terrible to behold, insomuch that many of them apprehended that the day of Judgment was come; Afterwards it gathered up into a Pillar of Fire, and therein they clearly discerned an Army brandishing a Flaming Sword.

XXV.

XXV.

TWo Men coming from about *Avery Hatch* near *Ilford* in *Eſſex* towards *London*, very early in the morning, *Novemb.* 5. 1660. ſaw in the South-weſt a fiery bright Cloud, which in a little time was diſperſed, and from under it appeared two Stars as big as the Moon, & to their apprehenſions they did with great violence contend each with other; and after they had conteſted a while on the Stars by degrees grew dimmer and leſſer, and the other brighter and larger, till at length one of them Totally diſappeared, the other continued in their ſight at leaſt two hours, a great part of which time they ſaw ſtreaming from it as they conceived ſucceſſively ſtreams of Fire and ſtreams of Blood, and (to uſe their own words) the blood ſtreamed from it as if it had been poured out of a Payl or Bucket. This Star afterwards by degrees leſſened till it came to the proportion of an ordinary Star, and ſo continued till they entred into *White-Chappel*. All this was received from the mouths of the Spectators by many perſons of Eminency in *London*, both that morning they came to Town, and at ſeveral times ſince.

Two Stars as big as the Moon ſeen conteſting each with other, and one of them did ſeem to pour down Blood & Fire ſucceſſively.

XXVI.

SEveral Perſons in *Spittle-fields*, *November* 6. 1660. and ſo for many mornings together about ſeven of the Clock, have ſeen in the Heavens a very ſtrange Star much bigger then the Morning Star; thoſe who looked upon it through a Proſpective-Glaſſe (and amongſt them the perſon from whom we received the account was one) could eaſily diſcern it to be of three ſeveral Colours; on the one part it was blewiſh like the flaming of Brimſton, in the middle it was clear like the uſual colour of a Star, and on the oppoſite part it was like the Flame of a ſmoaking fire.

A great Star of divers colours ſeen in *Spitle fields*, *Novemb.* 6 1660. and at ſeveral other times.

By

XXVII.

Fire appearing upon Horses Heads and on Travellers Switches as they rode between *Hull* & *Beverly* in a great Storm of Thunder and Lightning, *Novemb.* 10 1660.

BY Letters from persons of very good Credit, Inhabitants of *Hull*, it is Certified, that on the 10. of *November* 1660. there was about six of the clock in the Evening, a very sore and dreadfull Thunder and Lightning, some that were riding that Evening from *Beverly* to *Hull* and other places, thought that their Horses heads and the sticks in their fellow-travellers hands had been of a light fire.

This is somewhat like to that which by Philosophers is called *Ignis Lambens*, which they say is *plane prodigiosum & sine omni causa Physica. Magirl. Phis* 4. Lib. 4 cap. 2.

Also by other Letters out of *Yorkshire* from very good hands, we are assured that about the same time there hath been very sore Thundring and Lightning to the great terror and amazement of the Inhabitants; whereof the more notice is to be taken, because such Tempests are not usual at that season of the year.

XXVIII.

Armies seen in the Heavens engaged in Fight against each other.

SEveral credible persons, Inhabitants of *Harsham* in *Sussex*, comming towards *London* very early in the morning, as they were riding through *Smithams bottom* near, *Croyden*, on a sudden saw a very great Light, and the Hill on their left hand appeared as if it had been all on a Flame: in a little time that great Light divided it self into two distinct Lights, wherein seemed to them to be two distinct Armies engaging and pushing one against the other; They beheld them in this posture a very considerable space of time, till at last there fell an exceeding thick Fog which made it very dark, and the smell of the Fog was as the smell of Gun-

Gunpowder. This Relation was received by a Contributor to this Collection from an eye-witness.

Prodigies like to this have at several Times happened in many places, and the Events have been alwaies very signall and remarkable. The Paralell.

Thus did God forewarn the Jews of the destruction of themselves, their City and Temple which was effected not long after by Titus Vespasian, See *Joseph. Lib.* 7 of the Jewish Wars, *Cap.* 12.

The like also appeared in England Anno 1415. *not long before that Famous Fight at* Agen-Court *in* France *wherein the* English *slew upon the place* 10000 French, *and took as many Prisoners.* Vid. *Signum Cæleste*, &c. p. 126.

About the same time also Pope Gregory *died*, ibid.

The great alteration of State and the prosecution of bloody Wars in Italy *by* Charles *the* 8. *King of* France; *was portended and foresignified (amongst other things) by the apparition of great Armies of Men, joyning Battel over* Aretium *a Town in* Tuscany *sayes Dr.* Jackson *in a Sermon of his before the late King* Charles, *Entituled*, The signs of the time, on *Luke* 13. 5. *p.* 12.

In the Low Countries, Anno 1568. *Armies were often seen in the Heavens, and not long after the Prince of* Orange, *brought an Army into the field against Duke* De Alva *in behalf of the Protestants, and through the blessing of God was instrumental thereby to deliver that people from so cruel and bloody a Persecuter*, Strada.

The people in Germany *were often Spectators of the like Prodigies, and they were still the forerunners of some bloody Fights, Skirmishes, or Sieges, at or near these places where they were first seen. Thus it happened at Lint. 2 in* Austria, *as you may see at large in the* Germ. *Prod. p.* 10. 11. *and so also in* Silesia, ibid. p. 17, 18. *But more especially in the year*, 1628. *at* Sunderbory *in* Pomerland *two Armies appeared in the Heavens, the one from the North the other from the South; they engaged against*

against each other till the Army from the North seemed totally to rout and destroy the other. About two years after, the Renowned Gustavus Adolphus *King of* Sweden *landed his Army from the North near the place beforementioned, and not far from it did Engage with the Imperial Army, and totally vanquished it.* Vid. Germ. Prod. p. 31. 32.

The like was seen also June 18. 1631. *At* Asherleben *in the lower* Saxony: *Not long after between the said Town and* Tangermund, *the* Swedes *did great Execution upon the Imperialists; and so at several other times within that year to the almost utter destruction of* Tillyes *Gallant Army, which you may read at large in the* Germ. Prod. p. 44, 45, 46.

We our selves also in England *have of late times known this kind of Apparition, and by too sad Experience felt the meaning of it. It is fresh in the memory of many, that in* Anno 1640. *not long before our unhappy civil Wars, Armies were seen in the Heavens divers times and in divers places by many discreet persons of Quality, which, sayes an Author, were looked upon as sad presages of the ensuing broils.* Baker Chron. pag. 493, 494.

The coming in and the total defeating of Duke Himbletons *Army,* Anno 1548. *was clearly portended by the appearance in the Heavens of a Southern and Northern Army in* Yorkshire, *and the* Northern *Armies being beaten by the other. The Truth whereof many yet alive can testifie.*

XXIX.

A great bright Star as big as the Moon seen in Houndsditch, December 1 1660.

AN honest Man an Inhabitant in *Hounsditch* near *Bishopsgate*, affirms that on the first of *December*, 1660. about 5 of the Clock in the morning, he saw in the East a very bright Star as big as the Moon: he called up several of his Family to see it, who also were eye-witnesses of it with himself; from whom immediately we received this Information. *XXX.*

XXX.

A great bright Star seen at *Stoke Newington*, Decemb. 5. 1660.

A Citizen of good note in *London*, having occasion to stay all night, *December* 4. 1660 at *Stoke Newington*, in the Morning about 5 of the Clock, saw a very great light in his Chamber and being much amazed at it he arose out of his bed and went to the window, and looking out he saw towards the East a very great bright twinkling Star as big, according to his own relation, as many six Stars that he ever saw before, it shone so bright that he could have seen to read or do any other businesse in his Chamber by the light of it; He beheld it a quarter of an hour, and being very cold returned to his bed again; This Relation we have from the Gentlemans own mouth.

In the year 1572. *there appeared in* Cathedra Cassiopeæ *a large bright Star (though not so big as either of these two last mentioned) the effect whereof was felt the next year following in a very great dearth of Corn, as also all other provisions,* Baker. Chron. p. 422. *The Paralel.*

XXXI.

Several Steeples and Cathedrals seen burning in the Air. some subverted others torn irreparably, &c.

IT is Certified by a letter from a very good hand in *York-shire*, that six sober discreet persons being very early upon the Road saw a fiery apparition in the Air, wherein they discerned two or thee Steeples and several Cathedrals, some burning, others rent and torn irreparably, others subverted with the Pinnacles downwards, and by one of the Pinnacles stood an Angel with a flaming Sword.

XXXII.

A Steeple fired in the Air, and tumbled down with a Sword hanging at it. Another Steeple fired also and tumbl'd down with a Pike hanging at it.

BY another letter also from a person of credit in *York-shire* to an Eminent Citizen in *London*, it is certified that a little before the last great wind which hapned *Decemb.* 8. 1660. There was seen in *Bramma More* in *York-shire*, the form of a Steeple in the Sky which

which presently grew red, and then the Heavens seemed to open and great flashes of fire proceeded out and fired the Steeple, which presently tumbled down with a long Cross-hilted Sword hanging at it; Also at the same time and place was seen the form of a Church all on fire, which tumbled down as the other with a long Pike hanging at it.

XXXIII.

A standing field of Corn seen in the Heavens near *Horsley Downes*, and Reapers coming forth to reap it.

ABout the latter end of *December* last at *Horsley Downs* between two and three a Clock in the morning, severall credible persons saw the Heavens open, and there apposed a standing Field of Corn, and reapers coming forth to reap it with sickles in their hands, and a Lyon standing over the Reapers.

XXXIV.

A Sheet of fire mingled with blood, seen directly over *Pauls*, *Jan.* 14 1660.

ABout the 14 of *January* last, betwixt two and three of the Clock in the morning, there appeared a very great light over the City of *London*, some persons of credit dwelling in *Foster-lane*, being up upon some occasion so early that morning, went forth and saw as they have since related directly over *Pauls* a sheet of fire mingled with blood, the spectators themselves acquainted some of us herewith.

XXXV.

A fiery Sword over the West-part of *London*, *Jan.* 22. 1660.

AT *Hogsden* near *London Jan.* 22. 1660. in the Evening was seen by severall honest discreet persons, a very great light towards the South-west some of the Spectators thought that some part of the City of *Westminster* had been on fire; After they had for a little space of time viewed this fiery light, they plainly observed to come out of it a long white streak in the form of a Sword pointing towards the North-west. This Relation we received from a very honest credible person an eye-witnesse.

An

An apparition not altogether unlike this was seen over Jerusalem *not long before the destruction of it by* Titus Vespasian, Joseph, Hist. *of the Jewish wars*, Lib. 7. chap. 12.

The Parallel.

Over the City Bribrach *on the 6 of* March 1633. *in the Evening was seen in the Air a long fiery Sword; the next year* Gustavus Horn *the* Swedish *Field-Marshall did defeat the Catholick Army, killed many, and took the said City after the Inhabitants had been brought to miserable extremities*, Vid. Germ. Prod. p. 52, 53.

Such a Sword was seen over Rome *a little before it was taken by the* Goths, *and so great a slaughter made of the* Romans *as the like was never known in any age before*, Lycost. p. 286.

XXXVI.

AN Inhabitant in the Tower much about the same time, having occasion to be out of his house about 12 of the Clock at Night saw a very great fire in the Air directly over the White Tower; He presently called forth some others to behold it, who also were eye-witnesses with him thereof, from one of whom we received this Information.

A Great fire seen in the Air over the White Tower.

XXXVII.

THere are probable reports of several other strange Apparitions that were seen about the same time over the White Tower; But because we have no Clear nor certain proof of them, we have omitted to insert them, onely this is most true, that several Inhabitants in the Tower, did in the months of *January* and *February* for several Evenings together see very strange and unusuall flashings of fire in the Air over *Covent Garden* and the parts adjatent.

Strange flashings of fire seen in the Air over *Covent Garden*.

XXXVIII.

A Blazing star seen over *Westminster*.

ABout the latter end of *January* and the begining of *Feb.* 1660 was seen by divers credible persons over *Westminster* a blazing Star which continued severall nights together; It is likewise most certainly true, that in the month of *October* and since hath been seen sometimes in the East, sometime in the South West, sometimes in the and Southwest a Commet or blazing Star, between 3 and 4 of the Clock in the morning, this hath been observed by very many discreet & sober persons in and about *London*, as also in divers other places in this Nation.

The aralel.

In the year 1660 *a Commet or blazing Star appeared to the People in this Land, and not long after* Wil. *Duke of* Normandy *defeating King* Harold *and his Army, obtained the Crown of* England, Stow. Chron. p. 98, 99.

Upon that blazing Star and the effects thereof were made the following verses.

A Thousand six and sixty years,
It was as we do read,
When that a Commet did appear,
And English men lay dead,
Of Normandy, *Duke* William *then,*
To England-*ward did sail,*
Who conquered Harold *and his men,*
And brought this Land to hail.

Ibid. p. 101.

In the year also 1401 *was seen a blazing Star, which says my Auther, did perhaps foreshew the effusion of blood, which followed after in* Wales *and* Northumberland, *See* Baker Chron. p. 178.

Anno 1580 Octob. 10 *or* 7 *A Commet was seen, and not long after the Pope sends several companies of* Italians *and* Spaniards *to the aid of the Earle of* Destmund *in his Rebellion in* Ireland; *But they were through the blessing of God soon defeated, and many hundreds of them put to*

the Sword, Stow. Chron. p. 688.

We need not mention the Comet seen in the year 1618, *and what bloody wars did ensue immediately both in Germany, Poland, Italy and indeed all the Christian world over, whereof you may read at large in* Stow *and many other famous Chronologes and Historians.*

XXXIX.

MUch about the same time by letters from very credible persons living at *Derby*, we are assured that there was seen in the Air a great body of fire as big as two or three ordinary houses, which to the very great terrour and a frightment of the Inhabitants, did fly over the Town of *Derby*, and caused such a light that one might have seen to have taken up a pin by the light of it.

Fire was seen to fly over *Derby*.

XL.

ABout the end of this Month of *January* a person of honesty and discretion by the importunity of some of his Children who had been abroad, was prevailed with to go forth to take notice of a strange noise which his Children told him they had heard in the Air; Upon his going forth he did hear a strange rushing noise, and that he might the better satisfie himself about it, he went further into an open field not far from his house, where he plainly saw towards the North a black Cloud, and in the Cloud he heard a great rushing noise as of a shower of Rain or Hail; but about the Cloud he saw the Sky was very clear, After a little space of time he heard perfectly the sound of a Drum beating in the Cloud, and after that the report of great and small Guns which continued for a long time; afterwards about that black Cloud, where before it was very clear, there appeared many small clouds which flying swiftly every way did smite and dash one against another; He looked at it till he was weary, and then returned

Strange and terrible noises heard in the Air as of beating of Drums, the reports of great and small Guns, &c.

to his house, and in his way thither did still hear the noise of drums and guns as before.

This Prodigie happened in Austria *in the year* 1621. *and the Month of* March, *and not long after near the place where those noises were heard, very bloody Skirmishes and Fights were between the* Swedes *and the* Imperialists, Germ. Prod. p. 10.

The Paralel.

It is generally known that these kind of noises were often heard in the Air in severall parts of England, *not long before the unhappy breaking out of our civil Wars.*

And in the year 1658 October 11. *the noise of Guns and Drums was heard in the Air by many considerable persons in Yorkshire about* Holdernesse, Holden, Heddon, Patrington, &c. *and severall other places; It continued about half an hour, during which time, there was a great mist in the Air like smoak, and the earth seemed to quake and tremble; This thing is so generally received as a truth in those parts, there being yet alive so many that heard it, that it is above all contradiction.*

XL.

A Meteor in the Heavens like a sheaf of Corn all on a burning flame.

IN the month of *Feb.* 1660. A Citizen of note, with some other Passengers came from Gravesend in a night that was so dark that the water-men lost their way, and in six hours time had not gone above 4 or 5 Miles; in the midest of this darknesse, there appeared a fearfull fire in the Heavens, which brake forth like a sheaf of corn all on a burning flame, and continued so about the space of a quarter of an hour; Then was it obscured for the space of about half a quarter of an hour, and after that flamed again near a quarter of an hour more, and afterwards disappeared. The Relation comes from the aforesaid Citizen one of the Passengers.

XLII.

XLII.

The appearance of two Churches in the heavens, the one like a Cathedral, the other a very small one &c.

ABout the 26. of *February* last, a discreet sober Gentleman, and of good Quality, an Inhabitant of the Town of *Darkin* in *Surrey*, being abroad in the evening, saw a strange cloud in the air, and in it the appearance of two Churches, the one was in the form of a Cathedral, very spacious and glorious, having upon it divers goodly Pinnacles, and on each of them a long streamer flaming upwards and as he beheld it, he thought it grew up to a greater splendor and glory, glittering and shining exceedingly; He saw also not far from it (which he could scarcely discern) another Church which was very mean and little in respect of the former, and he especially observed, that when the great Church was most glorious, then the little one was most dark and obscure, yet he plainly discerned a very bright star in the midst of it, and another bright star between the two Churches; After this Gentleman had for some time with great admiration beheld this strange apparition, he perceived a small puffe as of breath upon the stately Cathedral Church, and immediately it fell down and vanished away; Then he saw the little Church with the Star begin to appear more bright and glorious, but upon some special occasion being earnestly called unto his house, he saw not the issue of it, which since hath been a very great trouble to him; This comes from the Spectators own mouth, who hath been always observed to be very averse to give the least credit to relations of this nature, he was by what he say with his own eyes convinced of the truth of this.

XLIII.

A flame of fire seen over *London*.

ABout eight of the clock at night, *March* 14. 1660 some of the Inhabitants of *Plaistow* in the Parish of *West-Ham* near *London*, saw for some hours together

ther a very great flame of fire over the City of *London*, as near as they could gueſſe it was ſo great, that a very knowing Perſon, an eye-witneſſe, (from whom we received this information) did declare to us, that he believed he ſhould the next morning have heard that half the City had been conſumed by fire, but coming to *London* the next day, he found his fears prevented, though his admiration very much heightened.

The Paralel.

Such fires were ſeen in many places Anno 1098. *and ſayes my Author,* ſecuta eſt animalium peſtilentia, & ſegetes nimio imbre & æruginę corruptæ ſunt, *there followed upon it a great peſtilence, and the ſpoiling of the fruits of the earth by too much rain and blaſting,* Lycoſt. pag. 180. 190.

The like alſo happened in ſeveral other places, with the like effects, Anno Mundi 3466. ibid. p. 75, 76.

Rome *alſo was once taken, not long after ſuch kind of Meteors were ſeen over it, though ſoon delivered again by* Lucretius, Liu. Hiſt.

The like Prodigie was ſeen a little before the great deviſions happened between the Patricii *and the* Plebeii *in* Rome, *and ſo ſtrong attempts were made to bring in the* Decemviri, Anno Mundi, 3505. Lycoſt. p. 73.

XLIV.

A bright cloud running to and fro in the air, and dropping down fire upon *W. H.* and the *P. H. March* 14, 1660.

SEveral Paſſengers coming in a Boat from *Putney* to *London*, about eight of the clock at night, *March* 14. 166 , when they were near *Weſtminſter* ſaw a dark and black cloud hanging over *W H* which after a little ſpace of time paſſed away, and in the room of it appeared a white bright cloud, which gave ſuch a light that they could plainly diſcern the windows of the Parliament-Houſe, and people walking to and fro upon *Weſtminſter* bridge, though before it was exceeding dark; whilſt they beheld this cloud, they ſaw it drop down fire ſeveral times upon

W H

W *H* and then it removed and ſtood over the *P* *H* and did drop down fire upon that alſo ſeveral times, then it removed back again to *W* *H* and dropt down fire again and then went back again to the *P* *H*, and did the like again there, and ſo it continued to do ſucceſſively for 4. or five times together, to the very great affrighting of the Paſſengers, but eſpecially the Watermen; One of the Gentlemen that was in the Boat came (as we have been informed) that night to *W* H and related this ſtory to ſeveral perſons there, the ſame apparition was ſeen at the ſame time and over the ſame places by divers Travellers that came from *Kenſington* towards *London* that night.

XLV.

SOme credible Perſons paſſing upon the *Thames* about eight of the clock at night, *March* 21. 1660. beheld in the Heavens a fiery Meteor as big as a man, which in a ſhort time brake into many hundred of large ſparkles of fire, and ſeemed to them to be lights in the ſky ſhaped like Pyramids, ſharp at the top and ſquare at the bottom.

A fiery Meteor breaking into ſeveral pieces.

XLVI.

UPon the 21 of *March* 1660. between ſeven and eight of the clock in the evening, was ſeen in the air at *London*-bridge by very many judicious and ſober Citizens, full Weſt, or Weſt and by North, ſeveral forms and figures variouſly metamorphiſed, being the perfect ſhapes and repreſentations of ſeveral Beaſts, one Monſter, ſundry Men, and two armies, the relation whereof take as followeth, as it was drawn up by ſeveral of the Spectators, who immediately while the thing was yet freſh in their minds, went together, and every one contributing his obſervations, they agreed unanimouſly upon the enſuing deſcription.

Strange apparitions in the Heavens ſeen by many at *London* bridge, *Mar.* 21. 1660

1 There appeared the figure of a great Cathedrall with a high Tower or Steeple advancing it self in the middle of it, which after a short continuance vanished.

2 There was represented the form of an Oak with very large arms and spreading boughes which also vanished after a short season.

3 The third figure was a very large Mountain of which the pyramid or lesser part stood downward, being placed between the said Cathedral and the Oak, which remained fixed for the space of a quarter of an hour without any variation at all; And after that these five several forms of beasts of Pray seemed to issue from the right hand, or North part thereof, *viz.*

1 The first whereof was in the form of a devouring Crocodile coming out of the middle of the Altitude of the said Mountain, and downward with the mouth wide open, which after a short space changed it self.

2 Into the form of a furious Bull which was in a short time Metamorphised. And in the

3 Third place represented it self in the form of a fierce Lion Rampant which was also suddenly. And in the

4 Place altered into the figure of a perfect Bear, which was immediately likewise turned, And in the

5 Place into a Swine or Bore; And so there were the representations of a devouring Crocodile, a furious Bull, a fierce Rampant Lion, and a beastly Bore or a Swine which alternately issued out of this great Mountain, which so stood or rose up between the said Cathedrall and the Oak, all which eight apparitions being quite vanished, the same Mountain seemed suddenly to rend and divide it self from the top, but greatest part thereof into two distinct parts which again were immediately formed into a very great beasts fastned or chained together by the hinder

der parts, the one ſeeming to draw one way, and the other drawing the quite contrary way, *viz.* That on the left hand which faced and drew towards the South, reſembled an Elephant with a Caſtle on his back.

That on the right hand towards the North, ſeemed to be a Lion or moſt like unto a Lion to all the beholders, but none could ſo clearly diſcern what this tenth figure was as they did the reſt; But it ſtood on the right hand with its head Northerly, and ſeemed with all its might to draw the Elephant that way; But ſuddenly after the Caſtle on the Elephants back vaniſhed, the Elephant himſelf looſing his ſhape.

And then in the very poſition or ſtation where the Caſtle ſtood (as near as we could judge) we clearly obſerved about 5 or 6 men to riſe up, which during their continuance were in an uninterrupted Agitation and perplexed motion to and fro, backwards and forwards.

Aafter this the other of thoſe two Beaſts wch were faſtned together and ſeemed to look and draw North and South as aforeſaid (*viz.*) That on the right hand in the form of or moſt reſſembling a Lion, was of a ſudden and in a moment wonderfully transformed into the ſhape of a horſe with a rider upon his back; But both ſuddenly ſeem to fall downwards and ſo extinguiſhed. And then

There aroſe another Cloud which in a ſhort time formed it ſelf into the perfect reſemblance or lively figure of the head of a Whale, having his Mouth alſo wide open. And then

There appeared on the right hand at a further diſtance North-weſt or N. W. and by N. Another Cloud which repreſented it ſelf to our view in the form of a great head with a cap thereupon, in the perfect form of a Cardinal's Cap as the ſame are uſually pictured, having two horns of a very conſi-

derable length affixed thereunto, And between the said Whales head and the said other head or Cap which had the said large horns, there were again a few men more seen, moving up and down with a very swift motion; But all these men also suddenly disappeared, one only excepted continued but a little longer then the rest moving up and down in much Majesty, magnificence and state. And then

There arose another great confused Cloud near unto the said great head and Cardinals cap, which had the two large horns, but something more Northerly, which cloud after a little time seemed like unto some large ruinous structure or building seen at a great distance, but while the beholders were looking wistly thereupon, the same then perfectly appeared to be a formidable Army or body of men set in Battalia which advanced Southwards. And then

There arose another Cloud on the left hand towards the South leaving that single Magistick person a little more Southerly, which Cloud formed it self into another Army, which was lesse then the first or Northeren Army; This Southeren or lesse Army advanced it self, likewise with much seeming celerity and speed against the said greater Northeren Army, and being come near each other, the said single Magistick person vanished, and by or about the time he was totally extinct; Then both Armies seemed furiously to encounter and assail each other, and after the first fierce on-set or charge, both Armies seemed to retrait a little, & then as formerly they made a second furious charge, during which time although the front of the Southern Army stood stoutly to it and seemed to get ground of the Northeren main body, and made them seem a little to retrait, yet yet the Arrair of the Southeren Army seemed to be discomposedly confused, and by degrees totally extinct, whereupon the said Northeren Army made a

third

third and furious charge against the Front or remainders of the Southern Army, and they against the Northeren Army; And being so engaged both Armies seemed a little to retrait, so as an interval was seen between them; And then without any discernable victory obtained by either party, the heads of the men of the said Armies which before were clearly discernable, became a confused Cloud or Chaos and so vanished away both together; But the whole duration of all these three fierce fights, Conflicts, Cumbates or Battels were very short and transcient, and continued not in the whole for above half a quarter of an hour, and then all seemed to discend into the great Horizon Clouds, so far forth as these spectators could or did then and there observe that night save only that in the last place.

Though first in Order there appeared three perfect figures, or several forms of perfect burning or glowing coales resembling these following figures, with intervals equally distant from each other.

The first and longest whereof seemed to be fixed to the middle part of some houses or buildings near Charing Cross.

The second longest or midlemost seemed likewise to be burning about the middle part of some houses in the Strand.

The last and shortest seemed likewise to the burning as aforesaid upon some houses or buildings either on or about, or between the Temple and Fleet-bridge.

XLVII.

Two Moones seen at *Chiswick April.* 12. 1661.

April the 12. 1661. about one of the clock in the Morning were seen at *Chiswick* in the County of *Midlesex* two Moones, some of the Spectators did assure an honest Citizen of *London* of the Truth thereof from whose mouth we received the Information.

Two

The Paralel. *Two Moones were seen at* Dubling *in* Ireland, Octob. 11 1342 *and not many Months after that, people endured most grievous oppressions by the means of the Lord* Ralph Uffold *who came into* Ireland *as Lord chief Justice, concerning whom we read in Histories that none of his predecessors were comparable to him, he was a great Oppressor of the people, a Robber of the goods both of Clergy and Laity, and much more to the same purpose sayes* Mr. Cambden *in his Annales of* Ireland, p. 188, 189.

XLVIII.

Four Rainbows seen near *Aulton* in *Hampshire.* IN the Month of *April*, 1661 about 4 or 5 of the clock in the evening after a great storm of rain and hail were seen by several credible persons near *Aulton* in *Hampshire* 4 perfect Rainbows standing directly over each other, and a little distance between every one of them; The two lowermost were not altogether so large, neither did they extend themselves so far as the other two did; This Information we received from an eminent Citizen of *London* who was then in the Country upon some occasions, and was an eye-witness thereof.

The Paralel. *At* Wien *in* Austria *in the same month of* April Anno 1619. *There appeared three Rainbows in the Heavens, and in the same year* Octob. 25. *a great and bloody fight was fought at the* Donaw-bridge *in the same Town of* Wien *betwixt the* Bohemians *and General* Bucquoy *in which encounter were slain on the Imperiall side*, 4500 &c. *As you may see at large in the* Germ. Prod. p. 9.

XLIX

Ten Rainbows and 4 half ones seen near *North Allerton* in *York-shire.* WE have also an account of several Rainbows that were lately seen together by divers persons at *Northallerton* in *York-shire*, the true and full relation, whereof take as followeth, being an extract of a letter from a Gentleman of very good quality in those parts to an eminent Citizen of *London*. I understand

derſtand that divers perſons between a 11 & 12 of the clock on that great windy night, ſaw at *North-Allerton* 10 Rainbows and 4 or 5 half one s, they ſtood all one way and together there being about a yard diſtance between each of them; My informer who with divers others ſaw this thing is a credible perſon, and yet at my houſe, *&c.*

L.

A great Piller of fire ſeen at *Bednal Green*, *April* 23. 1661.

UPon the 23 of *April*, 1661. (the day of his Majeſties Inauguration) about the time of that dreadfull ſtorm of Thunder and Lightning there was ſeen in the Sky at *Bednal Green* near *London*, a great Piller of Fire, and there ſeemed to encompaſs it burning coales of Fire, it continued a little ſpace of time and then vaniſhed; The relation comes from ſome of the eye-witneſſes perſons of credit and Inhabitants there.

LI.

Fiery Clouds and Meteors ſeen at *Pickadilla*, *April* 23. 1661.

THe ſame night alſo about 10 of the Clock were ſeen by ſeveral perſons near *Pickadilla* ſtrange fiery Clouds and Meteors very terrible to the Spectators, from ſome of whoſe mouths we Received the Information.

LII.

Three Suns ſeen near *Kingſton*, *May* 14. 1661.

UPon Tueſday *May* 14. 1661, from the hours of 5 till 7 in the Morning were ſeen 3 *Suns* by ſeveral perſons near *Kingſton* upon the *Thames*; the one appeared Eaſterly a little diſtance from the true Sun, and was of a blood colour, the other more Southerly and was half of a blood and half of a Silver colour: All three were of equal magnitude and equal diſtance from each other, ſome of the *Spectators* do affirm that when they firſt appeared, their poſition was Triangular; But afterwards they ſtood in a direct line, and as the true Sun aroſe in its ſplendour,

splendour, the other two by degrees disappeared; The whole relation comes from sober discreet persons eye-witness.

The Paralel.

There appeared 3 Suns in the Heavens not long before that contention happened between Galba, Otho *and* Vitellius *about the Romane Empire*, Clark. Prod. p. 484.

Also in the year 53. 3. Suns were seen at Rome *upon which a great famine did immediately ensue*, Lycost. p. 247.

The like also appeared in Germany Anno. 1541 about *which time Popery was rejected in the Palatinate* Signum Cæleſt. p. 5.

The same Prodigie was also seen near Brunswick Anno. 1550 *in which year great troubles did arise in* Antwerp, *the Inquisition opposed in the* Netherlands, *and severall of the Princes Electors made war against the Emperour*, Sig. Cæleſt. p. 5, 6.

In the time of the Germane *wars 3 Suns were frequently seen, and there alwaies followed some bloudy battle which was fought near those places, see* Germ. Prod. p. 9. 11.

The like also as many credible persons have affirmed was seen in England *on the 19 of* Novemb. 1648. *as also in the severall years*, 1639. 1644, 1645, 1646, 1647. *And especially in the year* 1650. *Not long before that famous and bloody fight between us and the Scots at* Dunbar.

LIII.

A dreadful whirl-wind accompanied with strange and Prodigious apparitions in the Heavens.

UPon the 24. of May 1561 there was about *Market-Street*, and several other places adjacent, in the Counties of *Herdford*, *Bucks* and *Bedford*, a dreadfull whirle-wind accompanied with many strange and Prodigious Apparitions in the Heavens, whereof many of the Inhabitants in those places were Spectators, and the most sober and discreet that we could find out amongst them, have given us the

the ſubſtance of the following deſcription thereof.

Severall perſons of very good credit Inhabitants of *Kenſworth* in the County of *Hertford* do inform us that upon the aforeſaid 24 of *May* 1661 in the fields of the ſaid Pariſh of *Kenſworth* about 2 of the clock in the after noon they with divers others heard a very dreadfull and ſtrange noiſe in the Air, which they could not tell what to liken to, ſome conceived it was like a continued noiſe of Thunder at ſome diſtance, others compared it to the noiſe of ſeveral drums beating together; Immediately after this frightfull noiſe there aroſe a very ſtrong and tempeſtuous wind, & with that a black dark Cloud with a great ſmoak appeared, and above the Cloud and ſmoak they beheld very clearly the form of two May-poles, the one of a dark black, and the other of a whitiſh colour, they were ſo plainly viſible that the very Children (who were at the ſame time gathering ſtones in the field) took great notice of them, and were able to deſcribe them. The ſpectators had a full view of theſe May-poles as they paſſed along in the Air for the ſpace of half a mile, untill they ſaw the whiter May-Pole wholly to vaniſh, & the other to looſe very much of its ſhape and form; This noiſe and repreſentations went along from *Kenſworth* to the next Town called *Caddington*, and paſſing through a field of one *Thomas Birchmoores* where his Servants were then at Plow, the noiſe and Repreſentations aforeſaid, were ſo dreadfull and they ſo affrighted therewith, that immediately with great amazement they ran away from their work, and left their horſes in the field. The wind was ſo violent that it took up ſtones in great abundance, both in the aforeſaid field and elſe-where, and threw them up a very great hight into the Air; From this field it paſſed to a great houſe called *Caddington Berry* belonging to the Dean of *Pauls*, where a Court was kept for him at the ſame time, and the Cook who did dreſſe the dinner there

that day going forth upon ſome occaſions had been carried away by the Whirlwind, but that he took hold of ſomething and ſo ſtayed himſelf as he hath ſince confeſſed; It alſo took off many Tyles from the ſaid houſe, and a great deal of thatch from the Barnes and out-houſes, it threw up the water out of a Pond there, as if (according to the relation of ſome of the Spectators) a thouſand men had been lading of it with Shovels, not far from hence it tore up divers trees by the roots, and did bow down ſeverall very tall ſpires, that the tops of them did very near touch the ground, and in one place a Barn conſiſting of three bay of building, was taken up from the ground-pinning and turned quite over.

And as it paſſed from *Caddington Barr*, it carried along with it as it were ſheets of dirt, water and ſtones which it took up in the Air, and were plainly deſcerned by the Spectators.

We have yet a further account of this ſtrange Prodigie as it was ſeen by other perſons in other places which you may take as followeth.

Two very diſcreet and ſober men living near *Dunſtable* do aſſure us that they 2 being together on the ſaid 24 of *May*, did ſee between *Dunſtable* and *Market-Street*, a very dark and black cloud paſſing towards *Caddington*, out of which there iſſued according to their apprehentions, a Sword with the point hanging downwards which grew bigger and bigger till it came to the exact form of a Steeple with the ſpire downwards, and the bottom upwards which was very black and dark, but the ſpire (which as we ſaid was next the Earth, and as near as the beholders could judge in the middle of the Cloud) was of a brighter colour, and did very much extend it ſelf downwards towards the Earth; But after a while it drew it ſelf up again much like to the figure of a Steeple as before, and then within a ſhort ſpace of time it was ſo abreviated that it did not ſeem to them

them to be more then a Pole long, and when it came to that porportion the motion of it was very tremulous, ſo that it ſeemed to ſhake to and fro continually; After this it extended it ſelf downwards again, and appeared in the form and ſhape of a very tall *Steeple*, the lower end whereof did ſuddenly leſſen to a very ſharp point, and quickly became perfectly taper, and then aſcended up into the Cloud juſt like the ſmoak of a Chimny, and when the ſmoak was vaniſhed they ſaw the ſhape of the Steeple again, but it did ſoon ſhorten it ſelf till it came to be about a Pole long, and then the lower end of it did ſhake as before; and at the upper end of it next the Cloud appeared a white ſtrake exceeding bright, and as near as they could judg about a foot and a half long, and preſently after, all did renter in the Cloud again: Immediately upon which the Cloud divided, and one part of it with an incredible ſwiftneſſe did fly away from the other; This diviſion of the Cloud was much about the place where they ſaw the *Steeple* before; That other part of the Cloud which remained was ſuddenly formed into the likeneſſe of a mill-wheele with Cogge, and did turn round with a very ſwift motion, upon which there ſeemed to fall down dead men ſpreading their Arms and Legs, others as if they had been cut off at the waſt to their apprehenſions, alſo there fell the quarters of mens bodies, as likewiſe the ſhape of dogs, after which all became a very white Cloud, and then its motion wholly ceaſed. This whole Apparition was with great diliberation drawn up by the perſons themſelves who ſaw it, and by them preſented to a perſon of known Integrity in their Neighbourhood (who is alſo a contributer to this collection) from whom immediately we received it.

By two very ſober credible perſons we are informed that upon the ſame 24 of *May*, they ſaw in

the Air near *Caddesden* in the county of *Hertford* the form of a very high Steeple which as they appehended did shake exceedingly, and by degrees it lessened it self to the proportion of a May-pole, and for a while continued in that shape, till at last it became like to a mans thigh with the leg and foot as also with the knee bending, after a short space it disappeared.

Also upon the same day near *Leighton Buzzard* in the County of *Bedford* severall honest persons did see in the Air the likeness of a May-pole sometimes very streight, and sometimes very crooked twisting like a worm; This they beheld for the space of half an hour, then there arose a smoak, and from the smoak issued the appearance of fire, which suddenly seized upon and consumed the May-pole.

LIV.

Seven Suns seen at Dantz. about the 20 Feb, 1660.

THe *Dutch Currants* doth tell us of many strange Prodigies that have this year been seen in divers places beyond the seas; But because we have no other confirmation of the Truth of those reports we omit here to insert them, and shall onely give the Reader an Account of the 7 Suns which were seen at *Dantzick* about *February* last, as it is at large Related in the following extract of a letter written from thence by a Person of Quality and Ingenuity to a Merchant of good note in this City.

At *Dantz.* 20 *Feb* 1660 *N. St.* about 11 of the clock when the Sun was going into the South-East, and the Air was very clear and still round about, I did see 7 Suns together very distinctly in the Heavens, to wit 3 coloured ones and three white ones besides the true Sun it self, about which was first a pretty big and almost closed circle round about very fair of colours much like a Rainbow, upon which on both sides 2 coloured Suns with the right Sun of the same

altitude

altitude from the Horizon were found both of them having long clear and somewhat whitish tailes picket as a Comet, the one bending towards the East and the other towards the West. Secondly above the Circle right, over half the Sun under a verticle line there stood a piece of an inverted circle or rainbow very fair of all manner of colours, with another somewhat darkish collaterall Sun. Thirdly there presented it self yet a great circle of all manner of colours, round about the Sun which compassed the same circle was somewhat paler and not altogether shut the Horizon being too near, and the Diameter of the circle being too great, upon which on the top of the capital Point there was also to be seen an invert piece of a Rainbow very bright and of orient colours. Fourthly there came another exceeding great and whitish silver coloured circle as it were out of both the Collateral Suns, besides the true Sun there came out of it (which encompassed the whole Horizon, and stood equally from the same at the same distance, some 20 Degrees upon the circle) 3 silver coloured Suns, the one in the North towards west, to wit over against the right Sun, the other in the East by North, and the 3 in the West towards the South; through these 2 last, to wit towards the Easterly and Westerly passed a white piece in circle-wise coming from above and passing through the great bow on which they stood; So that through both these collateral Suns there seemed to pass a white Crosse which was very notable and wonderfull to behold near an hour and half till all vanished again; So that the whole Phenomenon presented it self above measure, or exceeding fair, besides its very remarkable that 7 Suns after this manner truly have scarce ever been observed to have shown themselves together; Yea if I had somewhat sooner observed their Phenomenon that might have been seen nine Suns together, for I could well discern

discern the foot-steps of two more.

The Parallel. *Five Suns were seen in* England *in the* 17 *year of* Henry *the Third, after which followed so Great a Dearth that many People were constrained to eat horſ-fleſh and barks of Trees, and in* London *twenty Thouſand were ſtarved for want of food*, Baker. Chron. p. 100.

Strange accidents, Storms, Earthquakes and other Prodigies happening on the Earth from May 1660. to the latter end of May 1661.

I

One ſeen on horſ-back without a head and two Armies one of gray Coats, and the other of red Coats engaging one againſt the other.

BY a Letter from a very credible perſon in *York-ſhire* to a Citizen of note in *London*, it is certified that in the month of *May*, 1660 there was the apparition of one clad in white on horſ-back without a head galloping over hedges and ditches, as in plain waies, immediately upon this there was the appearance of an Army of Gray coats driving a flock of ſheep towards a hedge, where they did hack and cut them as they paſſed through ſome gaps in the hedge, upon which an Army of Red Coates fell upon the gray Coats and totally routed them, and then the whole diſappeared.

II In

II.

IN or about the month of *July*, 1660. a Lyoneſs in the Tower of *London* brought forth three Lyon whelps at a time, a birth very rarely heard of except in ſome Counteries at her firſt Litter; But in theſe parts of the World never known before.

A Lyoneſs brought forth 3 Lyons. *Vid. Plin. Nat. Hiſt. Lib. 8 Cap. 16 p. 201.*

III.

AT *Dover Auguſt.* 4 1660 from 10 of the Clock at night to two the next morning were ſuch ſtorms of Hail accompanied with Thunder and Lightning as the like was never known in thoſe parts before, ſome of the Hailſtones that fell were as big as walnuts, ſome that were meaſured were four inches about, fifty pounds damage at leaſt was done to Glaſſe-windows in that Town by this ſtorm.

Hail ſtones as big as Walnuts, accompanied with thunder & lightning.

Many ſuch ſtorms as this happened in the time of King John, but one above all the reſt was very remarkable wherein it hailed ſtones as big as Gooſe-egs, Baker. Chron. p. 82.

The Paralel.

What ſad miſeries did hereupon enſue to the whole Kingdome all our Authentick ſtories do ſufficiently teſtifie how were the people, yea the very Lords themſelves harraſſed by cruel oppreſſions and illegall exactions, but above all it is unſpeakable what the whole Nation ſuffered by continuall broyls and Diviſions, both whiles Prince Arthur *King* Johns *Nephew lived, who was his Competitor for the Crown, and alſo after his death from the* French *King and others; Inſomuch that a good Hiſtorian ſayes that the Kingdome was made the Stage of all miſeries of rapine and cruelty; Two Armies in it on foot at once, each of them ſeeking to prey upon the other, and both of them upon the Countery: Many other Paralels we could inſtance in, but that we are careful not to ſwell this Narative to too great a bulk; Only take theſe two ſhort inſtances, the one in the year*

Baker. Chron of the reign of King *John*, p. 80.

year 1496 *at which time there were hail-ſtones* 13 *inches about, and not long after followed a great Plague eſpecially in* London, Baker. p. 268. *The other is that in the laſt year of* Queen Maries *Reign,* Anno 1558 *Hail-ſtones were taken up which being meaſured were* 15 *inches about,* Baker Chron. p. 346.

IV.

A dreadfull whirlewind, Sep. 3. 1660. in *Leiceſter ſhire.*

UPon the third of *September*, 1660. in *Leiceſter ſhire* near the Town of *Worthington* began a very dreadfull Whirlwind, it turned an houſe on one ſide, tore up a great Tree by the roots, caſting it 4. or 5. yards from the place where it grew, it rent off the great limbes of an Apple-tree, and threw down a houſe into the ſtreet; the Chappel is ſorely ſhaken and the Chauncell in danger of falling; Then it paſſed on with great force and noiſe to *Worthington* Hall where it overturned five baies of Barn building and a Gate-houſe, It blew down a ſtack of chimnies, It hurried a man into the Orchard, where with his Arme he catched hold of a tree, and ſo ſtayed himſelf; From hence it paſſed renting trees and turning ſome up by the roots to a houſe that ſtands alone, where it took away a load of thorns, few of wch could ever be found after, it took out alſo the ſide of another houſe. At a town called *Tounge*, it overthrew a bay of Barn building, and rent a houſe where a woman with three children were miraculouſly preſerved, to this houſe alſo it brought a great log of wood, none knows from whence between *Worthington* and *Tounge* it is conceived that this wind hath rent off, and turned up by the roots twenty loads of wood, it carried away likewiſe a Hive of Bees which could not ſince be heard of; This whirlwiud ran about three miles in length, and the effects of it were not ſeen above twenty yards in breadth, ſome ſay that flames of fire were ſeen in it; This Relation comes from an honeſt diſcreet perſon, a ſpectator of the fore-

forementioned effects of this dreadfull whirlwind.

Anno 1624. *and* May 8. *The like to this happened in* Ratisbone *which tore up trees by the roots, and in a moment drave them to divers places, it threw down many houſes in the City and Suburbs, &c. This Town afterwards was ſtreightly beſieged and ſeverall times aſſaulted by the* Imperial *and* Bavarian *Army conſiſting of* 45000. *horſe and foot, of whom at leaſt* 8000. *were killed in the Seige; but the City at laſt was ſurrendered to them upon Honourable Conditions, See* Germ. Prod. p. 20. *The Paralel.*

Such a ſtorm alſo happened within a mile of Nottingham *the* 5 *and laſt year of* Queen Maries *Raign, by which amongſt other things the water and mud of the River* Trent *were taken up and carried a quarter of a mile and daſhed againſt Trees, many of which were torn up by the roots and caſt twelve ſcore off, alſo a Child was taken out of a mans hand and carried two ſpears length high, and then let fall* 200 *foot off, and ſo died of the fall,* Baker Chron. p. 346.

V.

UPon the 28. of *Auguſt*, 1660. were ſeen in *Bever'y* Market-place; and in ſeverall other places in the ſaid Town, an innumerable company of little frogs or toads or both; The people knew not how they came there, they having never been before ſo infeſted with thoſe kind of Creatures, but by circumſtances they Collected they might come out of the Air, becauſe they found ſeverall of them upon their Cloaths, which did hang on the hedges, many alſo did fall down to the ground from the tops of their houſes; This is certified by a Merchant of *Hull* who was that day at *Bever'y* market and ſaw theſe frogs, and helpt as himſelf relates to deſtroy many hundreds of them while he remained there.

An innumerable company of Frogs & Toads reigned out of the Air at *Hull Auguſt.* 28. 1660.

The Paralel.

The like to this happened in Alsatia, Anno. 1549. Lycost. p. 604.

In the same year Pope Paulus tertius *died, and the next year after there were great stirs in* Germany, *the Emperour* Charles *the fifth was so prosecuted and invironed by those who rose up against him, that he very hardly escaped with his Life by flight,* Lycost. p. 611.

VI.

An innumerable company of Spiders seen marching up one of the Streets at *Bury* in *Suffolk*, Sep. 6 1660.

AT St. *Edmunds-Bury* in *Suffolk*, *Sept.* 6. 1660. in the middle of the Broadstreet, there were got together an innumerable company of Spiders of a redish colour, the spectators judged them to be as many as would have filled a Peck; These spiders marched together, and in a strange kind of order from the place, where they were first discovered towards one Mr. *Duncombs* house a member of the late Parliament, and since Knighted; and as the people passed the streets, or came near the spiders to look upon so strange a sight, they would shun the people, and kept themselves together in a body till they came to the said *Duncombes* house, before whose door there are two great Posts, there they staied, and many of them got under the door into the house, but the greatest part of them climbing up the posts spun a very great web presently from the one post to the other, and then wrapt themselves in it in two very great parcels that hung down near to the ground, which the servants of the house at last perceiving, got dry straw and laid it under them, and putting fire to it by a suddain flame consumed the greatest part of them, the number of those that remained were not at all considerable; All the use that the Gentleman made of this strange accident so far as we can learn, is only this, that he believes they were sent to his house by some Witches.

VII

VII.

THe ſame day were alſo ſeen a great ſwarm of flyes flying over the ſaid Town of St. *Edmunds-Bury*, their multitude was ſo great that the Sky ſeemed to be darkned by them; both theſe relations come from credible perſons eye-witneſſes, however the Truth of theſe things is notoriouſly known to the Generalitie of the Inhabitants in that Town.

A great ſwarm of flyes ſeen flying over St. *Edmunds-Bury.*

VIII.

IN the County of *Merrioneth* in *North-wales*, in a field or cloſe which did belong to *Colonel John Jones* who was executed at *Charing-Croſs*, *Oct.* 17. 1660. Was ſeen by a Tennant of his going forth into the ſaid field that morning or very near the time, a Crab-tree covered all over with bloſſomes, he was ſo aſtoniſhed at it that he could not believe it was ſo till he came near to the Tree and cut off a bough of it, which he carried home with him and ſhewed to his Familie and divers of his Neighbours; ſeverall other credible perſons ſaw the tree, and many Gentlemen that were near and heard of it, ſent for boughs, which when they ſaw, they were convinced of the Truth of the report. This relation we received firſt by letters from the aforeſaid tennant, and a further confirmation we have ſince had of it by ſome very credible perſons Inhabitants there eye-witneſſes, who coming up to *London* did here atteſt it *viva voce.*

A Crabtree covered with Bloſſomes in the Month of *October*, 1660.

IX.

THe like alſo was ſeen on another Crabtree not far from the former which began to bloſſome on

Another Crabtree begun to bloſſome in another place at the ſame time.

on the said 17 of *October*, and the next day was full of ripe blossomes like the other, but within four or five dayes they all faded and withered away; The Information of this particular, also we have by letters from the persons themselves who were Spectators.

X.

Many meddow-mice which did eat up the grass in some parts of *Norfolk*.

IN the Month of *November* last, 1660 in some parts of *Norfolk*, were such Multitudes of meddow-mice, that in many hundred Acres together, one could hardly set down his foot without treading on them, they did eat up the roots of the grass, and in one Mr. *Spelmans* ground as himself confest they have spoiled him so much grass, as used to keep 130 fat Cattle, he feared also he should be damnified by them 300. l. in a field of Cole-seed.

The Paralel.

We find that in the same month of Novem. Anno, 1580. *at* South-Minster, *in* Dansey *hundred in* Essex, *there appeared an infinite number of Mice which overwhelmed the whole Earth in those Marches, and did shere and gnaw the grass to the roots, upon it followed a great murrein of Cattle which afterwards fed in those grounds,* Stow. Chron. p. 689.

The year following Queen Elizabeth *was much disturbed with* Jesuites, *of which severall were executed.*

XI.

A great tempest wch caused the Sea (it being a Spring tide) to break down many strong banks in *Cheshire* to the very great detriment of the Country.

IN *Cheshire*, upon the 8. of *Novem.* last, was a most Tempestuous wind, and it being a Spring tide, all the low grounds to *Thornton Moore Arme* were overflowed like a Sea; Great prejudice was done to many peoples houses, some Barns and Winmills were blown down, the sea was so outragious & high that it broke down Cops at *Juce*, that had stood as

is

is reported 100 years, it brak down alſo a new ſtrong Cops about the green *Warth* which coſt 3 or 400. l. making it break down *Infrente Dams*, which kept the flood from the Mill, and very much Corn in the mill was ſpoiled; The Sea alſo flowed over *Juce* at *Eldon-Marſh*, and did very great harm in *Frodſome-Marſh*, many ſheep and rabbets were drowned, as alſo beyond *Cheſter* many Sheep with Mares and Colts were drowned, very great harm was alſo done by Shipwrack at Sea, few or no Veſſels in thoſe parts eſcaped; But that the Lord might make it eminently to appear that he Commands the Winds and the Seas, that they muſt obey him; It is credibly reported that in this great ſtorm, two Children the one often the other ſeven years of age, being playing together in a Cock-boat in *Ireland* were driven to Sea, and by the violence of the ſtorm were brought to the *Engliſh* coaſt, and were both found in the Cock-bote enfolded in each others Armes being almoſt dead, but when they were taken out of the Boat, ſuch means were uſed that it pleaſed the Lord both of them recovered again; This whole relation we have by letters from very credible perſons in thoſe parts who do aſſure us of the truth of every particular hereof.

The Paralel.

In the year 1534 *ſuch an inundation happened in* Poland, *and the ſame year the King of* Scandia *died, and* Henry *the* 8. *King of* England *by Act of Parliament aboliſhed the Popes Authority in this Nation,* Lycoſt. pag. 555.

Alſo in the year 1568. *Through the exceſſive ſwelling of the Sea, many places in* Zeland, Holland *and almoſt all* Frizland *were overflowed with Water, whereby beſides the loſs of many mens lives, the Country in other reſpects was exceedingly damnified,* Clarks Prod. p 491. *About that time great troubles were in thoſe parts, becauſe of the cruell and bloody perſecution of the Proteſtants in that Country*

Country by Duke de Alva, *who for the tumultuous violence of ſome few in throwing down Images &c. Did by death and Impriſonments moſt unhumanely chaſtiſe all the reſt of the party who were no waies guilty of any crime, but ſuch violent and unjuſt proceedings did quickly afterward irritate the people to throw off the Yoke of the King of* Spain, *and there with the* Idolatry *and* Superſtition *of* Rome, *whereby they enjoyed and ſo do to this day a very great freedom both in their civil and Religious capacities.*

XII.

The Devil in the likeneſs of a Biſhop appeared to a Scholar in *Magdalen Coll. Novem.* 10. 1660.

BY a letter from a very good hand from *Magdalen* Colledge in *Oxford* it is certified that about the 10 of *Novem.* laſt, 1660 a Spectrum appeared to one *Allen* of that Colledge, which according to his own Relation was as followeth, he heard in the night when he was in bed, a noiſe like the noiſe of geeſe, he aroſe from his bed and looked out at his Window which opened over the Bridge but ſaw nothing, but going to his bed again he ſaw a man as it were grovelling upon the floor, in his Pontificalibus, attired like a Biſhop in his Lawn ſleeves, *&c.*

At firſt he was not much affrighted, but called to it and adjured it to ſpeak, the Biſhop immediately roſe up and approached towards his bed, at which the young man was exceedingly terrified, and crying out murder, murder, it vaniſhed, he ſince ſayes, that he ſaw and heard ſomthing which he will diſcover to none; upon the report of this ſtrange apparition in the Colledge, the next night five or ſix Schollars watched in that Chamber, and about midnight, on a ſuddain the candles went out, and immediately upon it was heard a great noiſe as of Children crying out, which ſo affrighted them, that they all run out of the Chamber; This is a thing generally known and talk't of by the *Students* in that houſe, though as it is reported the ſubpreſident did

did his uttermoſt to ſuppreſs the rumour of it, and by his menaces hath ſo awed the Scholar, that except it be to ſome ſpecial confidents he dares not own this to any.

The Paralel.

An Apparition not unlike to this we find to be in the yeer 1402 *in the Raign of* Henry *the* 4. *when the Devil appeared in the likeneſe of a Gray or White* Fryer *at* Danebury *in* Eſſex, *he came into the* Church *and extreamly affrighted the people who were there aſſembled together, and great hurt was done to the Chancell and Steeple by him; Not long after, ſeveral of theſe gray or white* Fryars *were hanged and beheaded for Treaſon, and many Priories with their Poſſeſſions were reſumed and ſeized into the Kings hands,* ſee Stow. Chron. p. 327.

XIII.

A violent ſtorm with thunder and lightning, wherein ſeveral perſons were killed.

UPon the 23 of *November* laſt, 1660. there happened in *Garnſey* a moſt violent ſtorm with terrible Thunder and Lightning wherein ſeveral perſons were killed, and much hurt done otherwayes; of this the Publique Intelligencer gives a full and true Account, unto whom we referre the Reader.

XIV.

A dreadful ſtorm of wind in *Yorkſhire.*

UPon the 8 of *December* 1660 at night there happened, eſpecially in *York-ſhire* and other parts Northerly, a very dreadfull ſtorm of wind, the like they ſay was never in any mans memory known before, very much hurt was done by the blowing down of chimneys and houſes, but eſpecially the Windmills and the ſhips went to wreck, it ſpared not the conſecrated places, many Churches were ſorely ſhaken; the great Catheral at *York* was damnified by it as it was judged at leaſt 1500 *l.* neither did *Rippon*, nor

nor *Beverly* Minſters eſcape free; The prejudice that the violence of this wind did to ſeveral Towns is not to be valued. At the ſame time the aſſurance Frigot deſigned for *Guyny* was ſunk in the *Thames* and about 30 men drowned in her, the effects of this Sorm alſo reached beyond the Seas; The Publique Intelligencer obſerves that upon the ſame day the houſe of Peeres voted the digging up of *Oliver Cromwells* bones; The ſame day alſo was as great a Tempeſt in *Ireland*, and very much miſchief done, ſome Stacks of Corn on my Lord *Mazarines* ground were ſo blown away and diſperſed, that (as his Lordſhip related it) there was ſcarce a ſtraw left upon a ſtraw; ſome other great prejudices his Lordſhip with many others ſuſtained in that Kingdom alſo.

The Paralel.

At Breſlaw *in* Sileſia Anno 1625 *there happened a very great Tempeſt which did very much miſchief to the* Churches, &c. *At the ſame place afterwards there were many hot and ſharp encounters between the* Imperialiſts *and the* Swedes *as you may read at large in the* Germ. Prod. p. 25, 26.

Alſo upon the 9 *of* April 1628. *near* Hatford *in* Barkſhire *There happened a very terrible Tempeſt, and the ſame Summer,* viz. Auguſt 23 *following the* Duke of Buckingham *was ſtabbed by Leivet.* John Felton, Stow. Chron. p. 1044.

We in this Iſland muſt never forget that Prodigious and dreadfull ſtorm of wind on the 4 *of* Novem. 1637. *About* 10 *of the* Clock *at night, which the famous and learned* Dr. Jackſon *Chaplain to his late Majeſty in his Appendix to his Sermons on* Luke 21. 25. *takes great notice of ſaying, that amongſt all the forewarning ſignes given to this Land as ſo many Summons to Repentance, none which have been given within my memory did make ſo durable impreſſions upon my heart and thoughts as that late mighty wind,* &c. *Read more in the aforeſaid Appendix; We all too well Remember what followed hereupon both in reſpect of the troubles in* Scotl. *and the civil wars amongſt our ſelves for ſo many years together.*

XV.

A very great and terrible thunder and lightning happened at *Oxford Decem.* 18 which hath not been uſuall in the winter ſeaſon.

A great Thundering and Lightning at *Oxford*, Dec. 18. 1660.

XVI.

UPon the 24 of *January* laſt 1660 betwen ſix and ſeven of the Clock at night there was a very great Earthquake in moſt parts of *Leiceſterſhire*, and in ſome places in the adjacent Counties, it came at the firſt with a noiſe in the Air like Thunder at a great diſtance, it ſhaked the houſes very much, and in ſome places men could hardly ſtand, except they held by ſomething, it continued about the ſpace of a quarter of an hour; This is a thing Publiquely known in moſt parts of that County as alſo in *Rutland*, &c.

A great Earthquake in *Leiceſterſhire Jan.* 24. 1660.

The Paralel.

There was a dreadfull Earthquake on the 22 *of* October Anno 105. *Not long after followed that moſt cruel & bloody perſecution of the Chriſtians under* Trajan *the Emperour* Dion.

In the City of Lacedemon *there happened alſo a very great Earthquake and not long after a certain people called* Ilotæ *which were their ſlaves roſe up againſt them and put them to great diſtreſſe*, &c. Plutarch de vita Cimonis p. 503.

An Earthquake alſo happened in Conſtantinople Anno 1509. *After which enſued a great Plague whereby the City was for the moſt part unpeople'd*, Turk Hiſt. p. 476. *And indeed according to the opinion of Philoſophers the Peſtilence in a natural way is the Common and ordinary effect of Earthquakes, ſee* Zanch de operibus Dei, p. 375. *and ſo* Seneca Quæſt. *natural* Cap. 27.

See many other Portenta of the Earthquakes in *Triſmeg.* Lib 5. p. 511. & *Lycoſt de Prodig.* p. 468.

On the 6 *of* April, *and on the firſt of* May 1580 *and the* 22

22 *year of the Reign of* Queen Elizebeth *there happened very great Earthquakes both in the City of* London *and severall other places, in which year as we said before* pag. *The Pope sent aid to the Irish who were in Rebellion against the Queen, but they were all by the blessing of God utterly defeated and cut off, See* Stow. p. 687, 688.

Anno 1381 *in the time of* Richard *the 2 was a great Earthquake in many parts in this Nation, and what ensued thereupon you may read at large in* Stow. Chron p. 283, &c. *See also* Lycost. p. 468.

XVII.

Two Hoggs come in to the Cathedrall at *Canterbury.*

UPon the 5 of *November* 1660 two great Hoggs came two severall and very strange unusuall wayes up divers steps into the Cathedrall of *Canterbury*, and went into the quire, when the Prebends were in the midest of their Devotion, and there continued till they were driven out by the Vergers. The Generality of the Inhabitants of that City do very well remember that a little before the down-fall of the Hierarchy in the year 1641. The same thing happened in the same place, *Malum Omen.*

XVIII.

Wheat was rained in *Lincolnsh.* about *April* 26, 1651.

ABout the 26 of *April* 1651 at *Spalding* and *Bourne* and severall other places in *Lincolnshire* it rained Wheat, some grains of it were very thin and hollow, but others of a more condense substance, and would grinde into a fine flower, severall Pecks of it were taken up out of Church leads, and other houses that were leaded, severall of the Inhabitants there who were eye-witnesses have brought up some of the grain to *London*, which some of us have seen, and as we are credibly informed a good quantity of it hath been presented to his Majesty by a person of honour.

We find that Anno 722 *in a field in* Italy, *there fell a great quantity of Corn from Heaven in a ſhower of rain; After which time, and in the ſame year* Charles *the Emperour did ſubdue the* Saxons; *And ſeverall Biſhops were by the ſame Emperour for their pride and inſolencies thrown out of their Biſhopricks,* Lycoſt. p. 328. The Paralel.

The like alſo happened Anno 828. *In which year* Ludovicus *the Emperour tranſported an Army into* Africa, *and in a pitched Field did totally vanquiſh and overcome the* Africans, Lycoſt. p. 347, 348.

About the year 1641 *it rained a kind of grain in ſeverall parts of* England *which was like a withered wheat corn, but not ſo long, with a skin of a dark colour, which being pulled off, the grain had a taſt ſomewhat ſharp and hot;* Mr. Baxter *aſſures us that he taſted ſome of it himſelf and kept ſome of it long, which fell on the leads of the Church and of the Miniſters houſe in* Bridg-North *where* Mr. Baxter *then preached the Goſpel, See* Baxters *Saints reſt* 8 *Edition* p. 227.

XIX.

IN the ſame month of *April* 1660 about *Cheſterfield* in *Derbyſh.* it rained white aſhes, which fell in ſuch quantities that ſeveral fields did look very white as if Snow had covered them; a perſon of very good credit who hath lately been in thoſe parts received this account from ſeverall of the Spectators. The raining of aſhes near *Cheſterfield* in *Darbyſhire.*

The like was ſeen at Conſtantinople Anno 653. *which did much terrifie the people, and immediately there followed a great mortality by reaſon of the Peſtilence which raged exceedingly in that City for many months after,* Lycoſt. p. 322. *The Paralel.*

The ſame thing alſo happened near the ſame place Anno. 744 *being the year wherein* Conſtantine *took* Conſtantinople *by force,* Lycoſt. p. 329.

XX.

A very fierce & ſuddain ſhower of rain in *Lon. May* 21 1661.

UPon the 21 of *May* 1661 (the day before the Covenant was burned, there fel ſo much rain in *London*, by reaſon of a moſt fierce and ſudden ſhowr which lafted not much more then half an hour) that moſt of the ſtreets were like Rivers, inſomuch that great Casks *&c.* did ſwim down the *S*treets; and in Colemanſtreet the water was ſo high that a great dog could not croſſe the way but by ſwimming, whereof ſeverall Inhabitants there did take ſpeciall notice; Near *Smithfield* alſo the water ran with ſuch violence that it bore down ſeverall hog-ſties in the Caſtle-Inn-Yard, and carried the hogs down the common-ſhore to the middle of *Cheek-lane*, which is near 20 Rood, many thouſand pounds as ſome Judicious Citizens have affirmed will not make good the damage which Merchants, Vintners, Victuallers and other Tradeſemen have ſuſtained by that haſty and violent ſhowre.

The Paralel.

The like ſtorm of ſuddain rain happened in London *the ſecond year of King* James, Anno 1604. *as you may read at large in* Stow. Chron. p. 844.

Alſo on the laſt of Septemb. 1558 *and the fifth and laſt year of Queen* Mary *there was ſo great a ſhower that ſeveral boates were rowed from* Weſtminſter-Bridge *into Kings-ſtreet,* Bakers Chron. p. 347.

The like flood of waters in the ſpace of half an hour the Clouds powered down upon Kutterberge *in* Bohemia Anno 1623: *in the time of the bloody perſecution which the Proteſtants did undergo there, See* Bohem. Hiſt. p. 353.

XXI.

XXI.

WE muſt not paſſe by without obſervation the great and unuſuall rains that have fallen this Spring; The oldeſt man living can hardly remember the like, there being ſcarce a day or elſe a night for many weeks together wherein the Heavens did not poure down very great ſhowers upon the Earth, the prejudices whereof we may juſtly fear (if the Lord in much mercy prevent not) the whole Nation will feel before this year be expired.

Great rains for many weeks together this preſent year, 1661.

Theſe great rains are by our Hiſtorians numbred amongſt the Caſualities that happened in the time of that moſt unhappy King Henry *the* 6. *The troubleſomeneſs of whoſe Raign is ſufficiently known to all that have been but ordinarily verſed in our Engliſh Chronicles and Hiſtories.*

The Paralel.
Baker Chron. p. 213.

Alſo in the year 1594 *and the* 36 *of the Raign of* Queen Elizabeth, *it Rained from* May *till about the latter end of* July *almoſt every day or night, and after it followed (though a reaſonable good harveſt) yet a great dearth of Corn and all manner of proviſions, See* Stow. p. 769.

XXII.

BY divers letters from *Scotland* we are certified that a woman lately in that Nation brought forth a ſtrange and dreadfull Monſter the deſcription whereof take as followeth, being an extract of one of thoſe letters which was ſent from a known credible perſon in *Scotland* to a friend and near relation of his not far from *London*.

A Woman delivered of a ſtrange Monſter in *Scotland*.

In the County of Bochanon *in our Iſland, there was a Woman brought to bed of a certain Creature, which before it came forth was heard to ſqueke and cry in the womb, and as it was coming out, it did ſqueke ſo terribly that every one*

run

ran away affrighted. At last the Minister with several others came in, and there was born a Creature all hairy, beneath the girdle like a man Child, and above the shoulders two heads, one upon the top of the other, the upper like the face of a Lion, and did immediately run up and down the house, crying three times woe, woe, woe, to the world; The Father of this Monster knockt it on the head, this is a certaine truth.

XXIII.

WEe are from very good hands assured of a very strange providence of God that lately happened at *Wincaunton* in the County of *Sommerset* on the 29 of *May* 1661. the Relation whereof as it was received from honest and faithfull persons eye-witnesses take as followeth.

Gods strange & miraculous preventing the burning of an Effiges made to represent a faithful Minister of the Gospel.

Upon the said 29 of *May* (being his Majesties birth day, and appointed as a day of thanksgiving for his Majesties Restitution to the exercise of his regall power over these Nations;) Mr, *Sacheveril* the Minister of the Town of *Wincauton* aforesaid did in the Celebrating the memorial of that day or on the Lords day foregoing, preach to the People from that portion of Scripture, 1 *Sam.* 12. 25. *But if ye shall do wickedly, ye shall be consumed both ye and your King*; From which words he raised very clearly this observation, *viz. That wicked and prophane men are the worst Subjects*, which he demonstrated and confirmed by severall arguments, and in his application did endeavour to convince that part of his Auditory which his Text was most applicable to of the inconsistency of their present course of Prophaneness, Drunkenness, Whoredom, Scoffing at Religion, Swearing, Blaspheming, &c. With that which is Loyalty indeed and wherewith any Prince can be either advantaged or honoured; The rude debauched multitude of the Town (who judged themselves the best Subjects

because

because most obnoxious to the preachers reprocss) were extreamly scandalized and enraged at this Doctrine, and resolved to be avenged on the Minister for so open detecting their disloyalty to their Soveraign, to which purpose they prepare an effigies made of straw and clothed it in black, which might represent Mr. *Sacheverel* and put into its hand, the Catechism compiled by the late reverend Assembly of Divines, and with a horse or horses drew it through the Town upon a Sled, and at several honest sober mens doors as they passed along they made a stand, demanding of it whether it would read the Common-prayer or no, to which some were appointed still to make answer in the negative, whereupon they draw it away to the place where they had set in order above an hundred fagots of furses and other such like combustible matter in the midst of which pile they place the aforesaid effiges upon a short pole, and then kindled their Bone fire; and though the effigies was in the midst of a very quick and fierce flame which ascended above it, yet the fire had no power at all over it, but it remained after a good part of the materialls were consumed altogether untouched, at which the multitude were so enraged that one of them discharged a Gun at it, which as he shot it off, brake in pieces and hurt himself with some others that stood near him; Then another of the company struk at it with a hanger which also by the force of the blow brake in two; then they took it down and held it in the fire, and the wind blew the flame from it, so that they could not make it burn, then they held it in the fire on the contrary side, and the wind immediately turned and kept the flame again from seizing upon it; After all they were forced to pull it to pieces, and so by piece-meal at last consumed it in the fire; This relation with the severall Circumstances of it, as we have here inserted them will be attested by divers Inhabitants in

the ſaid Town of *Wincanton*, and the truth of the ſtory is ſo notoriouſly known there, that the actors themſelves have not the face to deny it or any part of it, and we cannot but hope that it hath left ſome conviction upon them, ſeeing the Lord by this ſtrange and miraculous providence hath ſo publiquely and manifeſtly diſowned and rebuked their barbarous and inhumane uſage (and that only for telling them the truth) of their faithfull Miniſter in their attempts (though in vain) againſt that man of Straw which they made to repreſent him. And let it alſo be an encouragement to him, and all the reſt of the Lords faithfull Meſſengers in this day of great Apoſtacy to hold faſt the truth, and to cleave to that God *who ſtilleth the noiſe of the Seas, the noiſe of their waves and the tumult of the people.*

Some remarkable Apparitions and Prodigies that have happened in the Waters, together with ſtrange and unuſuall double Tides from May 1660. to the 14 of Feb. 1660.

I.

Six horſes were ſeen drawing a Coach up and down a River.

LEtters from a very credible Perſon out of *York-ſhire* to one of quality in *London* do certifie us, that in the month of *May*, 1660. in *Craven* in *York-ſh.* was ſeen 6 Coach-horſes drawing a Coach firſt down and then up the River with very great fierceneſs.

II.

II.

WIthin a mile of *Fetcham* in the way to *Leather-head* in *Surry* were three Springs, the lower of which uſed to run very ſtrongly, but ſince the latter end of *October*, 1660. for about four months it did not run at all, though the two upper Springs (which according to an ordinary courſe in nature ſhould firſt have failed) have continued all this while running, Some of the Inhabitants near the place take great notice of it, becauſe it never in their remembrance happened ſo before, except once which was in the year 1648. and much about the ſame time of the year.

The loweſt of three Springs dried up near *Fetcham* in *Surry*.

III.

ABout the beginning of Winter laſt, a very great Well by *Chirk* Town, four miles from *Oſweldſtry* in *Denbighſhire* was alſo dried up, which hath not as far as the Inhabitants there can remember at any time heretofore happened, except a little before the laſt great Plague.

A great Well dried up near *Chirk* town.

IV.

IT is very certain that this year both at *Croyden* in the County of *Surry*, as alſo at a place called *Fair-Mile* near *Henly* upon *Thames* in the County of *Oxford*, a ſmall ſtream of water hath broken out, which the adjacent Inhabitants of both places do take notice of, with very great fear and conſternation of Spirit, becauſe when the like hath happened heretofore, either Peſtilence, Famine, or ſome dreadfull chance and revolution have alwaies enſued.

Two ſmall ſtreams have broken forth, the one near *Croyden* the other near *Henly*.

V.

A double Tide at *London-bridge*, *Novem.* 2. 1660.

UPon the ſecond of *Novemb.* laſt, being the day wherein her Majeſtie the Queen Mother came to *White-Hall*, there was a ſtrange double Tide obſerved at *London* Bridge; the account whereof take as followeth: Whereas by the uſual courſe of the River it ſhould have ebbed till four of the Clock in the morning, and then ſhould have flowed till eight or nine; but this morning, *viz. November* the ſecond, it was flood from one of the clock till four, and then ebbed about two hours time a yard and a half, and then which was about ſix of the clock it was flood again till ten in the forenoon and then ebbed again.

VI.

Another ſtrange tide whereby 1000 ſheep were drowned near *Graveſ end*.

THere was likewiſe, *Novemb.* 16 when there was no wind ſtirring, another very ſtrange Tide at *London-bridge*, it ſhould have ebbed that morning till four or five of the clock, and it was flood and flowed till four, and ebbed about an hour or ſomewhat more, whereas commonly the ebbing is ſeven hours below Bridge; After that the water ſeemed to ſtand ſtill, and run no way for an hour together, and the Ships did ride as if they had been in ſtanding water, then it began to flow again, and though this happened but two daies after the Moon entered into her laſt quarter, at which time the Tides are alwaies loweſt, yet it was as high as any Spring Tide whatſoever, it was obſerved to riſe five foot at leaſt higher then the Tide immediately foregoing, and it roſe ſo high and that ſo ſuddenly and unexpectedly, that near *Graveſend*, above 1000. Sheep were drowned; This flood continued for about 3 hours and then ebbed again.

In

In the 17 *year of* Queen Elizabeth, *there happened at London-Bridge a double Tide ſomewhat like theſe which we have mentioned in the* 2 *foregoing particulars,* Baker Chron p. 422. *In the ſame year died* Mathew Parker *the Arch Biſhop of* Canterbury, *as alſo not long after* Walter Devoreux *Earle of* Eſſex, *and Earle Marſhal of* Ireland *fell ſick of a* Lask *and preſently died,* Stow. p. 679. 681. *The Parallel.*

Such a Tide likewiſe happened in the year 1608. *and not long after a peace was concluded betwixt the King of* Spain *and the States General of the united Provinces,* Stow p. 893.

We find likewiſe that a little before the late King Charles (*then Prince of* Wales) *began his voyage towards* Spain, Anno. 1622. *The Thames ſhifted four Tides within the ſpace of five hours* Stow, P. 1035.

VII.

UPon the ſame day alſo, it is moſt certain that there was a very ſtrange Tide at *Hull*, after it was fall'n water, and according to its courſe ſhould have been half ebb, it was flood again, and higher by a foot then at the time of high water; This comes from an honeſt deſcreet Merchant that lives there who was an eye-witneſs. *A ſtrange Tide at Hull.*

VIII.

VPon the 20 of *November* 1660 the River *Derwent* was at *Derby*, and five miles above and five miles below that Town, for three or four hours together totally dried up, ſo that no water during that time came to any of the Mills upon the River, the boats were all on ground, and the fiſhes left upon the ſand, ſo that the Children took them up in their hands, and in ſeveral places the people went over the Channel with their ſhoos dry-ſhod. This is The River *Derwent* near *Derby* dried up, *Novemb.* 20. 1660.

the more remarkable becauſe this River *Derwent* is an in-land River, and uſeth not at any time to ebb and flow, and it is alſo at *Derby* above 100 foot broad and ſeven or eight foot deep at leaſt, and beſides it is likewiſe an extraordinary quick fierce ſtream; Therefore the hand of the Lord is the more eminently ſeen in cutting off the waters thereof for ſo many miles together, and for ſo conſiderable a ſpace of time.

Camden ſayes of this River that it carries a full and lofty ſtream, *Brit.* p. 554.

The Paralel.

Anno 1399 *and the laſt year of King* Richard *the* 2. *his Raign, the River* Ouſe *near* Bedford *ſtood ſtill, and by reaſon that the waters gave back on both ſides men might paſſe on foot within the very Channel for* 3 *miles together, not without wondering of all that ſaw it,* Cambd. Brit. p. 399.

What ſome did adjudge this to ſignifie you may ſee in Baker Chron. p. 167. *It was conceived alſo that it did portend the civil broyles between the Houſes of* York *and* Lancaſter *which happened not long after, and wherewith* England *for a long time was rent in pieces,* Cambd. ibid.

Alſo in the year 1443. *and the* 22 *of the Raign of* Henry *the* 6. *The ſame River* Ouſe *on new-years-day ſtood ſuddenly ſtill, and divided it ſelf. What the thoughts of many then were of the ſignification of that wonder, and what not long after it did enſue, the judicious Reader may find at large in* Baker Chron. p. 213.

IX.

The Water ſo low at *London-bridge* that with a Pole one might have leapt over the Channel.

WHereas upon the 16 of *December* 1660 it ſhould have been full Sea at *London-bridge*, according to the uſuall courſe of the Tides at ten of the Clock in the morning and twelve minuts after, at the ſame hour the *Thames* was ſo low that ſome walked on the ſands into the mideſt of the River, and at ſix of the clock the ſame night it was ſo dry to the very narrow

row Channel that one with the help of a Pole might have leapt over it, as ſome diſcreet perſons eye-witneſſes do affirm.

In the year 1550 *when the Perſecution began to wax hot in* Scotland *againſt the Profeſſors of the Truth, amongſt many Prodigious ſignes which were then obſerved, this was one, that ſome great Rivers in the middeſt of Winter were dried up,* Spotteſwood, Hiſt. *of the Church of* Scotland. *The Paralel.*

Alſo in the year 1592 *the River of Thames was ſo low, that ſome did ride over it on both ſides of* London-bridge, *and ſhortly after the Peſtilence brake forth with great violence, and ſwept away many Families in* London, Stow. p. 765, 766.

Anno 1632. *a little before the King of* Sweden *was ſlain at that fatal Battle at* Lutzin, *a River of no ſmall account in* Swedeland *loſt its water, inſomuch that for a whole day a man might go through it with a dry foot,* Germ. Prod. p. 48.

X

Another ſtrange tide at London-bridge, Feb. 14. 1660.

UPon the 14. day of *February* 1660 there was likewiſe another very ſtrange Tide at *London-bridge*, for after a whole hours ebb at the leaſt, the flood came in again and continued flowing for an hour and an half, and then for about the ſame ſpace of time the water ſeemed to ſtand ſtill, and then it ebbed again.

Strange and unuſual accidents, together with ſome remarkable Judgements befalling divers perſons in this Nation, from June 1660. to the 23 of April, 1661.

I.

Mr. *White* Miniſter of *Ruffham* ſtruck dead while he was reading the Service-book.

ONe Mr. *VVhite* Miniſter of *Ruffham* in *Suffolk*, a man of Parts and one that did pretend very much zeal for the Reformation of religion in the Presbyterian way, upon the late change did write in vindication of Epiſcopacy, *&c.* Or gave ſome ſuch like Teſtimony of his receding from his former Principles, and was one of the firſt Miniſters in thoſe parts that attempted to read the Service-book: But it pleaſed the Lord to give him a very ſharp rebuke, for upon his firſt attempt he was ſmitten and fainted away while he was in the Reading-place, but comming preſently to himſelf again he proceeded to read on, and was ſmitten in like manner the ſecond time, and ſo carried out of the Church for dead, though afterwards by the uſe of means his life returned to him; but whether he hath ſince recovered his perfect health again or no we have not heard.

II.

UPon the 2 of *June* 1660. being the Lords day, at *Brokington* in *Gloceſterſhire*, there was a Religi-

ous

gious meeting of many Godly Christians from several Towns in those parts. The place of Scripture which the Preacher did that day treat upon was, *Jude* 1. 14, 15. *ver. And Enoch also the seventh from Adam prophesied of these, saying, Behold the Lord cometh with ten Thousands of his Saints to execute Judgment upon all, and to convince all that were ungodly amongst them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.* And while he was expounding and applying that Scripture, the Clark of the Town his Daughter (who was publiquely noted to be a prophane and most malitious scoffer and reviler of all that desired to walk strictly as becomes the Gospel, and more particularly of these who were now assembled as aforesaid, and (according to credible information) she was active in procuring some of the County-Troop to come and disturb them in their meeting that day) with her Mother came in amongst them to scoff at them as at other times, but more especially to see these poor honest men routed and pulled out of their meeting-place by the Souldiers, who by this time for that purpose were even at the door; But a most remarkable and righteous hand of the Great and Terrible God did after a most dreadfull manner prevent her therein, for (having continued there but a very little while) she gave a great and sudden schrich and fell down dead before them all; her Mother with others that were near her, used all the means they could to restore her life, but all proved ineffectuall; This Judgment of God hath been generally taken notice of in those parts, as a thing Publiquely known to be true, and the effects of it have been considerable in many persons there.

III. One

III.

One offended with an honest Minister for speaking against the Common-prayer book as he conceived, prosecuted the Minister with great violence, but the Lord put a stop to it by taking away the prosecutor by suddain death.

ONe Mr. *Ourd* formerly a Major in the late Kings Armie, being present one Lords day, about the beginning of *September* 1660 at *Anwick* Church in Northumberland, where one Mr. *Rowell* is Minister, and hearing him that morning preach something as he conceived against the Common-prayer Book, expressed great discontent at it, and in the afternoon caused the Church doors to be shut up, so that Mr. *Rowell* was constrained to Preach to the people in the Church-yard; He also threatened that the Minister should forthwith be turned out of his living; In order whereunto he not long after repaired to the Assizes at *Newcastle*, and there indicted the said Mr. *Rowell* for speaking disgracefully of the Common-Prayer Book, but by the interposition of some friends of the Ministers he was wholly prevented of effecting his design for that time; But being in pain to be delivered of the mischief he intended against this good man, he attends the Judges at *Durham* Assizes also, and there his successe was better then at *Newcastle*, for he procures something wherwith he purposes severely to scourge Mr. *Rowel*: But now the Lord immediately from Heaven pleads the cause of his faithfull innocent Servant, and makes his Prosecutor a sad and Publique example of his displeasure; For as he was returning from *Durham* to *Anwick* upon the twenty fourth of *Sept.* 1660. And going over a shallow water not a foot deep he fell suddenly from his horse, some that were near and saw him fall made all possible hast to him, who when they came to help him up (as they themselves relate) found him dead and very cold, they used what means they could to recover him, but in vain; When the Jury viewed his body, they gave in their verdict that he was dead before he fell

fell from his horse, for they could find no hurt at all about him which they could Judge was occasioned by his fall that might bring him to his end; This is a thing too notoriously known in those parts to be questioned.

The Under-marshal in Calice *who was a great informer against, and Persecutor of good people, there did suddenly fall down dead and never spake word more sayes* Mr. Fox *in his Acts and* Monum. *The Paralel.*

IIII.

OUt of *Leicestershire* it is certified from unquestionable hands, that a Gentleman of good quality and Estate an Inhabitant in a Parish in that County, did very much urge the Minister of the place to read the Service-book; when he saw he could not by his importunitie prevail with him to do it, out of his extraordinary zeal to propagate that way of Devotion, upon a Lords day following did himself read it in the Church to the people, the Minister being a man of a peaceable Spirit did no wayes interrupt him in it, he declared his purpose to do the like again another Lords day following; but on that morning before Church-time, as he was in his Parlour writing a letter, which according to vulgar report somewhat concerned that business of the Common-prayer Book, he was struck with a dead palsy on one side, which immediately gangrened, so that he became a most loathsome creature, and so stunk that none was able to come near him, in which sad condition he continued roaring and crying out because of his pain, for about three Weeks time and then expired.

One angry with an honest Minister for not reading the Common-Prayer, undertook to do it himself one *Lords* day, and intending to do it again the next Lords day, was taken that morning with a dead Palsy, and so hindred of his purpose.

V.

A Minister Baptizing a Child with the sign of the Cross, and ot the same time drinking to excess, as he rode home that night was kil'd by a fall from his horse.

AT the request of an Inhabitant in a Town near *Bilrica* in *Essex*, a certain conformable Minister that lived not far from thence came over and Baptized his Child, wherein he not only made use of the Sign of the Crosse, but withall told the people that it was usefull to defend from all evil, at the Christning-feast it seems the Minister (who according to the Apostles rule should have been no Wine-bibber, but an example of Temperance and sobrietie to the rest of the people,) meeting perhaps with that Wine which the French call *Vinum Theologicum* which is indeed the best Wine, did at that time drink to excess, however he would adventure to ride home that night, and going through *Belrica* he could not pass by the Tavern *insalutatam*, but there he calls for a pint of Wine; the Vintner having at that time more discretion then the Parson, and observing what case he was in, refused to let him have any more Wine, telling him he had drunk too much already, at which the Minister was so enraged, that he immediately took his horse, and as well as he could rode away in a very great chafe towards his Habitation; but as he was going the Vintner being much affected with his Condition and fearing least some disaster might befal him in his way, because he saw he was not well able to fit his Horse, did very kindly offer him a Servant of his to wait upon him home, which he with great scorn and indignation refused, however the Vintner commanded one privately to follow him, who after he was gone a little way from *Bilirica*, seeing him fall from his horse, ran immediately to help him up; But the Parson was exceeding angry with him for following him, and charged him to return home again, and gave him twelve pence to do so, and then he getting up

on

on horseback again, and having rid but a very little way further, falls down again, and the man that followed him went withall the speed he could make to help him, but when he came to him he found him stark dead; The truth of this is notoriously and Publiquely known in those parts.

How many examples like to this have been known heretofore, and amongst them also some drunken Superstitious Priests, you may see at large, Clarks Exam. p. 146. *see also* Divine Truged. p. 19. *The Paralel.*

VI.

MEster *Bartholomew*, the late Minister of *Camden* in *Glocestershire* who was sometime a zealous stickler for Presbyterian Reformation, and did exceedingly oppose and Preach against the Common-Prayer-Book, was yet prevailed with to read some part of it, as it is feared much against his Light and Principles; But the very first Lords day that he read it, he was strucken with sickness and died before the next morning. One reading the Common-prayer, as it is feared against his Light, was strucken sick and died.

The like Judgment happened to one Cox *who was a zealous assertor of the Truth in King* Edward 6. *his time; But when* Queen Mary *came to the Crown he embraced the Religion wch was then in fashion and afforded best preferment, it pleased the Lord that he going at night well to bed, died before the morning, See* Beard Theatre &c. p. 42. *The Paralel.*

One Dan. Basil *Professor of Divinity at* Prague *in* Bohemia *a noted Apostate, was surprized also with suddain death,* Bohem. Hyst. p. 358.

VII.

A forward man in prosecuting Mr. *Mayo* for not reading the Common-prayer book; found drowned in the River of *Thames*.

ONe *Thomas Butler* of *Kingston* upon *Thames* in *Surry*, who was a bitter enemy to Mr. *Mayo* the Godly able Minister of that Town, and was most principally active of any other in preferring a Bill of Indictment against him for not reading the Common-prayer book, was seen on the 17 of *October* 1660 (which was about a fortnight after the preferring the said Indictment) to come drunk out of an Alehouse or Tavern in *Kingston*, and for four dayes after he could not be heard of any where, till at the four daies end he was found drowned in the River of *Thames*.

The Paralel.

It is observable that one Wright *an Inhabitant of this same Town of* Kingston, *a notorious scoffer at Religion, and a violent Persecutor of the reverend Minister of the said Town, the immediate Predecessor of the present Incumbent (though he was not drowned) yet was suddainly struck with a dead Palsy, and lay in a most miserable Condition for a short time and then died, See* Divine Tragedy p. 22.

VIII.

Severall men urge a Minister to read Common-prayer and give them the Sacrament, for not doing of which they combine together to do him some mischief, wherein they were prevented by the suddain cutting off of 7 of them by the stroak of death.

MAster *Woodward* Minister of *Dursly* in *Glocestershire*, being very desirous to preserve the Ordinances of Christ from Polution and defilement, did in the former times keep back from the Lords Supper some notorious scandalous impenitent persons in his Parish, who upon the late re-entry of the Bishops, did begin to take courage and came to the Minister, demanding of him to read the Common-prayer book and to admit them to the Sacrament; Upon his refusall to gratifie their importunity in either of them, they went away very much dissatisfied

fied and enraged, and entered into a Combination the next Sacrament day to press in upon him, when he was administering the ordinance, and if he refused to admit them, that then they would do him some mischief; but it pleased the Lord before that day came, to take away six of those persons by death one after another, and a seventh being struck sick immediately told his wife he should dye, though there was then outwardly but very little sign of so sudden a change, but he taking his bed with the conceit of it, intreated his wife to send for Mr. *Woodward* the Minister to come to him, telling her still he was sure he should dye of that sickness; according to his desire his wife sent for Mr. *Woodward*, unto whom when he came to him he did freely unbosome himself and told him the whole story of the the Combination above mentioned, and begged his pardon, together with his prayers to the Lord for him, withall telling him that he knew he should dye as the rest of his companions had done before him, and entreated Mr. *VVoodward* to Preach at his Funerall, and then declare unto the people what he had now discovered to him, which accordingly he did.

IX.

A Gentlewoman speaking against the Phanaticks, was struck speechless & afterwards dyed.

IT it certified from very good hands concerning one Mr. *Townsends* Daughter of the City of *Worcester*, that being present at a Bonefire in *VVorcester*, the evening of that day (according to our best Information) when his Majestie was Proclaimed, that she drunk healths and most violently reyled against, and bitterly cursed the Phanaticks, it pleased the Lord that the same night her speech was suddenly taken from her, and her tongue very much swelled in her mouth, and within four dayes after or there abouts she died; Her Father sent to Mr. *More* an eminent

eminent Minister in that City, desireing him to bury her with the Book of Common-prayer, upon his refusall he got one *Horril* who lived not far from thence a man of a very ill fame to do it, and when he should have read, his eye-sight was utterly taken away from him, he tryed several Books but could read in none of them, the people waited near a quarter of an hour till at last another Parson was by the friends of the deceased requested to do that office for them, who (though as it is thought not canonically qualified for the service) in such an exigency did undertake it, but performed it so confusedly that all present were exceedingly astonished at it; This is a truth attested by severall Citizens of note and credit in *Worcester*, and indeed too notorious to be contradicted by any.

X.

Severall Nonconformists committed to prison, those who were their violent Prosecuters stricken with sickness and died.

ABout twenty sober Religious people being met together near *Carmarthen* to Worship God, were taken and carried to that Town, as they went through the Streets they were much abused by railing speeches, and some that were more rude and barbarous threw stones at them as they peaceably passed along, in which actions there was one Mrs. *Simmons* that was observed to be more forward then all the rest, one Mr. *Bird* also *Tertullus* like did most vehemently accuse and implead these poor Christians, it was so remarkable that the Justice himself according to the duty of his place, did publiquely check him for being so busie and violent in that wherein he was not at all concerned; The Mayor also of the Town was exceeding cruell to them, committing them to the Dungeon for some space of time, they continued about five weeks in Prison, during which time or a few dayes more, the Mayor and his wife, the aforesaid Mr. *Bird* and Mrs. *Simmons* were

whereby the hand of the Lord ſmitten with ſickneſs and died, to the great admiration both of Town and Country.

We Read that in the time of the ſeventh Perſecution under Decius *the Emperour, when* Secundianus *and others ſuffered for the Teſtimony of Chriſt, that thoſe who were moſt forward and cruell in promoting that bloody work were cut off by ſuddain death,* Clark Martyr. p. 53. *The Paralel.*

XI.

MEeter *Symmes* the Miniſter of *Wimbleton* in the County of *Surry*, being by the violence of one of the Church-wardens, hindred from preaching in the Publique place, did preach at his own dwelling houſe to as many as were free to come thither to hear him; It was very much obſerved that one *Nathaniel Pace*, an Inhabitant of that Town of *Wimbleton* did moſt bitterly raile againſt Mr. *Symmes* and the meeting, and was heard often with very great rage and violence to curſe them, and to breath out threatning words againſt them, but this he did more eſpecially on one Lords day, which was *Octob.* the ſeventh 1660. And it pleaſed the Righteous and Juſt God, that on the very next day when the ſaid *Nathaniel Pace* was upon the Heath cutting Furſes, he was ſtruck with a dead Palſy (as it was conceived) but he preſently begun to recover and grow better for a few hours, ſo that he was able to return to his work, but after he had a while continued ſo he grew very ill again, and then fell down as dead among the Furſes, he was not found till nine of the clock at night, and then was carried home where he came to life again, but lay raving, curſing and ſwearing till he died, which was within very few dayes after.

One who did rayl at, and curſe a faithfull Miniſter and other good people, was ſoon after ſtricken with a dead Palſy, & and lay curſing and ſwearing till he died.

Thus it happened to a violent hater and Perſecu-

tor *The Paralel.*

tor of a Godly Miniſter in *Hungary*, God ſtruck him with ſickneſs and ſoon after he ravingly died, Fox *Acts and Monu. &c.*

XII.

One who malitiouſly proſecuted an honeſt man for delivering ſome Books to his Friend while he was writing to a Juſtice of the Peace about it, was ſtruck dead before he could ſend his letter away.

BY a Letter from an unqueſtionable hand in *Yarmouth* bearing date *January* 28, 1660. We are aſſured that the Clark of the Peace for the County of *Norfolk*, did moſt maliciouſly proſecute one Captain *Salter* for giving a Book (which contained a Narrative of the ſeverall executions of thoſe ten men who ſuffered in *October* laſt) to a Gentleman, a friend of his in that County, Captain *Salter* was bound over to the Seſſions, and the Clark of the Peace writes a letter to one of the Juſtices who lived near to the Gentleman, to whom Captain *Salter* gave the aforeſaid Book, that he ſhould bind him over to appear at the *Seſſions* to Teſtifie againſt the ſaid Captain *Salter*, when he had finiſhed his Letter on the back-ſide of it, he writes down ſeverall queſtions which he deſired the Juſtice to propound to the ſaid Gentleman when he ſhould appear before him, *viz. what Conventicles had been lately kept at his houſe, and who the perſons that met there, and what Books Captain Salter did deliver to any perſon to his knowledge*, when he had done this, before he could come out of his ſtudy to ſend away the letter, he fell down dead and never came to life again, one coming in to him found this letter juſt finiſhed, and ſeeing the contents of it, ſent for the gentleman whom it concerned, and ſhewed it him who took a Coppy of it, by which means we come to know the certain Truth of it.

The Paralel. *In the year* 1510 *one* Auguſtine *a Lawyer, a great ſtickler againſt and a malitious Proſecutor of the Nonconformiſts in* Bohemia (*called then the* BROTHERS) *was ſtrucken*

ſtricken from Heaven with the ſtroke of ſuddain death while he was in his houſe ſitting at ſupper, Bohem. Hyſt. p. 78.

Alſo Dr. Duning *Chancellour in the ſame County of* Norfolk, *a bloody Perſecutor, in* Queen Maries *dayes was ſuddenly taken ſitting in his Chair and died,* Fox Acts and Monu. *&c.*

XIII.

Two men who violently proſecuted an honeſt Miniſter, ſmitten dead before they came to teſtifie againſt him.

THere was a malitious perſon in *Salesbury* whoſe name was *Payne* a Brewer, who did inform ſome of the Juſtices againſt Mr *Troughton* a Godly Miniſter in that City, the 27 of *November* 1660. was the day appointed for the Juſtices to come over to *Salisbury* to hear this Information, and examine ſome witneſſes upon it; But it pleaſed the Lord that the aforeſaid *Payn* (who was to be the chief witneſs againſt this good man, and had made a vow not to brew any more Ale till he had driven him out of the City) died within a very few hours before the time appointed for hearing the buſineſs, ſo that the Juſtices were conſtrained for want of Teſtimony to return from *Salesbury re infecta.*

Much about the ſame time another alſo of that City whoſe name was *Hater*, a violent and malitious proſecutor of the ſaid Mr. *Troughton* was ſuddenly taken away by death; of the hand of God againſt theſe two men, great obſervation hath been taken both by the generality of the Citizens and ſome of the Juſtices.

The Paralel.

Mr. Richard Sedgwick *an eminent gracious man and an able painfull Preacher of the Goſpel for many years together at* Wapping, *was in his younger daies called to be the Miniſter to the Merchant Adventurers Company at* Hamborough, *amongſt whom he did very much good, being Inſtrumental in drawing many Souls to Jeſus Chriſt,*

at which the Divel was very much enraged, and stirred up an eminent Merchant of the company against him, because of his impartiall dealing in his Ministry and the order in the Church, (the only crimes wherewith Mr. Troughton *above mentioned was charged by his adversaries) who threatened that by such a day, and named it, he should be sent away for* England *and dismissed his employment, but before that day came, the Merchant himself was summoned by death to another place,* Clarks Martyro. P. 397.

XIV.

A violent Prosecutor of good men struck-en dead suddenly at *Kingston.*

UPon the first day of the Assizes, being *March* the 4. 1660 at *Kingston*, it pleased the Lord to strike with sudden death as he was drinking a glass of Wine in the Castle Tavern, there the under Sheriffe of that County, a notorious hater and persecutor of Nonconformists, and a most violent stickler for the Common-prayer book, and it is well known that at the time of his death he was maliciously prosecuting some thing of that nature against some honest peaceable people in that County.

The Paralel.

One Mornay *a French man immediately after he had been instrumental to bring a Godly Protestant to the Stake, was by suddain death taken out of the World,* Acts *and* Monuments.

XV.

A woman was envious against a godly Minister, wishing her fire in his belly, wch fire burned her own house and many o thers before night.

AT *Ilmister* in *Somersetshire*, a woman who very much hated a godly able Minister that was newly turned out of his Living, there as she was bringing home some fire which she had fetched from a Nighbours house, wished that it were burning in the said Ministers belly; the same day as it is reported

ed there was acted in the Town a Play in deriſion (as ſome do affirm) of that which they call the Rump Parliament;) This woman made great haſt to diſpatch her buſineſs that ſhe might be at leaſure to attend the Divertizement of ſo good an exerciſe as that Play was, and it ſeems in her haſt did leave her fire (kindled, by that which a little before ſhe wiſhed in the *Miniſters* belly) very careleſly, inſomuch that her own houſe with about twenty ſix houſes more, upon or near the market-place were before night burnt down to the ground.

XVI.

A certain perſon whoſe name was *Maſon* an Inhabitant of *Mountgomery* in *Wales*, went one day from the ſaid Town to a Farm not far diſtant in purſute of a cruell and malitious deſign againſt ſome Nonconformiſts in thoſe parts, in his return home between the Farm and the Town he fell from his horſe and lay for dead, his horſe coming home without him, and ſearch being made for him, at laſt he was found and brought to a Neighbours houſe near the place where he fell, it was not long before by the uſe of means he came to life again, but like a diſtracted man he continued a few dayes and died.

One that went to a place not far from his own houſe, in order to the promoteing of a miſchievous deſign againſt ſome Nonconformiſts of his Neighbourhood, in his return fell down dead from his horſe.

XVII.

A Gentleman of good quality and a very credible perſon giving a viſit to a great Lady not far from *Charing-Croſſe*, was entertained by her with very bitter Invectives againſt the Parliament-party, from whom ſhe had received in former times very great civilities, and towards whom during all thoſe times ſhe was exceeding moderate; But now not like the ſame woman very much tranſported with

A Lady who uttered very horrid blaſphemous words was not long after taken away by death.

paſſion againſt them; The Gentleman endeavoured to calm her Spirit, and amongſt other diſcourſe told her *it was not good for any to be too confident, for if we provoked God by our Wickedneſs, he could eaſily as he had done this, ſo make another change in a moment if it pleaſed him*; She replyed in a very great paſſion, *No it is impoſſible for God himſelf to make another change*; A very little while after the ſame Gentleman ſeeing her Husband in *Weſtminſter Hall* in mourning, asked him the cauſe of his wearing that mourning Habit, he replyed to him that his wife was lately deceaſed; And we would in charity hope that God before that change paſſed upon her ſelf did convince her of the Truth of that Scripture, *Pſalms* 135. *verſe* 5, 6. *The Lord is great, and our Lord is above all Gods, whatſoever the Lord pleaſed, that did he in Heaven, and in Earth, in the Seas, and in all deep places.*

The Paralel.

One Libanius *of* Antioch *immediately after his ſpeaking horrid blaſphemous words died ſuddenly*, &c. Clarks Examp. p. 46.

Alſo one Dennis Beneſield *for uttering very Blaſphemous ſpeeches was ſmitten by the Lord with ſuddain death as ſhe was going between* London *and* Hackny, Acts *and* Monuments.

We could eaſily collect many more Inſtances of the ſame kind, but we omit them to avoid prolixity.

XVIII.

One who thirſted after the blood of other men, ſuddainly ſickened and afterwards died, and blood iſſued out of him to admiration.

ONe Mr. *Ruſſell* an Apothecary in *Bucklers-bury London*, being in company with ſome perſons of good quality and credit, amongſt other diſcourſe inveighed moſt bitterly againſt Phanaticks, and ſaid that more of them muſt be hanged, *&c.* One of them replyed to him that he hoped that the blood which had been lately ſpilt at *Charing-Croſſe* and *Tyburn*, would ſatisfie him and the reſt of his Friends, he anſwered

swered no, we must have the blood of more of them yet, and so named divers persons who were formerly active for the Parliament, and if they might have the blood of those men he believed then they should be all satisfied, but not till then; It pleased God that this man went home and that night sickned and grew worse and worse, till at last he was desperately ill and full of Torment, and seemed to be extream restless in his Spirit, till at length within a week after he had spoken the aforesaid words, he was taken away by death, and immediately after his breath was out of his body, there issued from his mouth, nose, ears and Fundament very great and unusuall quantities of blood, to the great admiration and astonishment of the beholders who had not the least knowledge of the abovementioned discourse, which so immediately preceded his death.

Charles *the* 9 *King of* France *whose thirst could never be quenched with the blood of the* Protestants, *by Gods just judgment fell sick and with great effusion of blood out of many parts of his Body, died miserably,* Acts *and* Monuments. *The Paralel.*

XIX.

AT *Horsney* in *Suffolk*, one *Gibbs* a very prophane scoffing man against Religion, did cause his hogs-trough to be brought forth to a Bone-fire, which was then in the Town, and ordered the wood to be set round it, saying that this was the Phanaticks Pulpit, which he would now have burnt to ashes, and so made himself and the company very merry with that foolish and ridiculous conceit; It pleased the *Lord* that in a very short time after, this mans House and Barns were set on fire with Lightning from Heaven and all burnt down to the ground, since which time he is observed to be more silent, and

One at a Bone-fire brought his hogs-trough to be burnt as the Phanaticks Pulpit, but afterwards his house and barns were burnt by lightning.

and forbears his Scoffing invectives againſt good men.

The Paralel.

Immediately after the Q. *Mother of* Scotland *had uttered ſome jearing and ſcoffing ſpeeches againſt ſome diſtreſſed Proteſtants who were ſlayn before the VValls of* Leith, *a ſuddain fire kindled in that Town which burnt up all the* Q. *Store-houſes and Proviſions, whereupon ſhe preſently fell ſick and died,* Clarks Examp. p. 581.

XX.

A perſon rejoyciug in expectation to ſee Major General *Harriſon* go to his execution, was ſuddenly taken with a ſtrange Trembling or Convulſion-fit.

THe day that Major General *Harriſon* ſuffered *October* 13 1660, a Pantaloon Ruffainly Gentleman, placed himſelf near Newgate to ſee the Major General drawn to his Execution, one that ſtood near him obſerved him often to break forth into moſt execrable curſing and ſwearing, he would be frequently wiſhing, *Oh that the Rogue would come away, that I might ſee how like a Rogue he looks now he is going to be hanged*; at length *Harriſon* came, and as this Gentleman had fixed his eye upon him, he was ſmitten immediately with ſuch a trembling that he was not able to hold a joynt ſtill, his companions got him into a houſe that was near, and the perſon that had obſerved him curſe and ſwear as before followed him into the houſe, and endeavonred to lay the Judgment of God home to his Conſcience, but he ſeemed ſenſible of little, but cried out continually *O I think my heart will come out*, he continued in this miſerable Condition in that Houſe for the ſpace of about two hours, then he was convayed away by his Friends, and what became of him ſince we have not heard.

XXI.

XXI.

THe ſame morning Mr. *Peters* ſuffered at *Charing-Creſſe*, which was *October* 16 1660. A Poulterer in Eaſt-cheap rejoycing much at the death of that man, came croſs the Street to a Butchers ſhop, raying moſt bitterly againſt Mr. *Peters*, ſaying to this effect, *Now the Rogue Peters was gone to be hanged, and would Preach no more, &c.* While the words were yet in his mouth, a great Dog that lay under the Butchers Stall, came violently upon him without any provocation at all, bit him and tore him extremly, and drew him under the Butchers Stall, and could not be gotten off him till he had bitten, as we are informed, 18, or 19 dangerous holes in his body, he was in great hazzard of his life by it, and kept his bed for ſome weeks after, but as we heare he is ſince recovered; This Providence was the more remarkable becauſe the dog was alwaies wont to be very gentle, and never obſerved either before or ſince to fly at any one, eſpecially in the day time and in the ſtreet; and beſides this *Poulterer* uſing daily almoſt to come over to the Butchers Shop, was as familiar with the dog, and the dog with him as if he had been his Maſter.

One coming over, rejoycing to a Neighbour of his for that Mr. *Peters* was gone to be hanged, a great dog flew upon him, and did bite ſeverall holes in his body to the endangering of his life.

XXII.

ONe Mr. *Anthony Palmer* an able faithful Miniſter of the Goſpel, was by the former powers ſetled as Preacher at *Bourton* on the water in *Glocesterſh.* where he continued ſome years, but lately by the force and violence of ſome few of the Inhabitants was driven from his Charge, being ſeveral times in danger of his life, and ſo was conſtrained for a ſeaſon to withdraw from the place, and did ſubſtitute an able Miniſter to preach in his room; But one of the Pariſhoners

Two malitious perſons who did violently proſecute a good Miniſter, were ſuddenly taken away by death.

Pariſhoners that had been the chief ſtickler againſt Mr. *Palmer*, brings an Epiſcopal man to read the Common-prayer Book there, and one Lords day when he had begun to read, the other Miniſter whom Mr *Palmer* had requeſted for a time to ſupply his place for him, went up into the Pulpit and begun to ſpeak to the people what he conceived tended more to their Edification then what the other was then about, and wherein he ſo prevailed, that the other at laſt was forced to ſurceaſe; Upon this that perſon before mentioned (who was ſo fierce and cruel an enemy to Mr. *Palmer*, and the onely conſiderable Patron in that Pariſh of this Common-prayer Book man) ſtood up in the Congregation and deſired the Neighbours to depart with him, and not to hear ſuch a Fanatick as was in the Pulpit, he prevailed with very few, except his Chaplain to bear him company; But it pleaſed the Lord ſuddainly within a few hours after to ſtrike him with death. Another of the Pariſh that was his abetter and companion in the forementioned proceedings, was alſo ſuddenly ſmitten in a very ſtrange manner, his hands graſping one in another that they could not be opened, who in three dayes time was taken out of the world by death alſo.

The Paralel.

One that was Chamberlain *to the Emperour* Valens *expreſſed much diſcontent againſt a Religious Monk, becauſe of his frequent preaching, and did at one time, eſpecially in the preſence of the Emperour, abuſe him with taunts and raying Language, but preſently the hand of God ſtroke him with an* Apoplexy *and he fell down dead,* Beard Theat. p. 26.

One who was come to *London* in order to do ſome prejudice to ſome honeſt people in his Country, was prevented by death.

XXIII.

ONe that lived in *Wales*, a great Perſecuter of Nonconformiſts in his Neighbourhood, being not

not able to carry on his deſign againſt them, there in any proportion to the malice that was in his heart towards them; about Michaelmas laſt, in order to a more ſevere and effectuall proſecution of them, came up to *London*, but his purpoſe God did wholly fruſtrate, for within two dayes after his arival there he was carried out of the world by death.

XXIIII.

ONe Mr. *Conſtantine* a Miniſter in *Cheſhire* was moſt injuriouſly dealt withall and perſecuted by a Gentleman in that County, who was (as we are informed) the Patron of the living where Mr. *Conſtantine* was ſetled, but it pleaſed the Lord to ſend great ſwarmes of Lice to this Gentleman, wherewith he was grievouſly infeſted, and having ſome convictions upon his conſcience, he went to Mr. *Conſtantine* acknowledged the wrong he had done him, and deſired his pardon, and the benefit of his prayers to the Lord on his behalf; But within a ſhort time he died of this noyſome deſeaſe.

A patron of a living where a godly Miniſter was ſetled having done much injury to this good man, was ſo over-run with lice that he died.

Tertullian *writes concerning one* Claudius Herminianus *a great hater and perſecutor of the Chriſtians, that God ſmote him as he did* Herod *ſo that he died of vermin, but before his death ſayes he*, cognito errore ſuo penè Chriſtianus deceſſit, *being convinced of this error in afflicting the ſervants of Chriſt, he died almoſt perſwaded to be a Chriſtian himſelf.* *Th. Paralel. Ad Scapulam*, p. 89.

Maximinian *the Emperour a cruel Perſecutor of the Chriſtians, was by the hand of God ſtruck with a grievous deſeaſe, vermin bred abundantly in his body wherewith he was ſo infeſted, that not being able to endure it any longer he hanged himſelf*, Euſeb.

One Philips *alſo a bloody enemy to the Proteſtants in* Q. Maries *dayes, and particularly to* Mr. Tindal, *a Godly Miniſter fell into a grievous ſickneſs and was conſumed with Lice*, Acts and Mon.

XXV.

UPon the 23 of *March* 1660. a dreadfull Judgement was executed by Gods immediate hand upon one *Dorothy Mately* an Inhabitant of *Ashover* in the County of *Derby*, an exact and true relation whereof was taken from the mouth of a very credible person (who lives in the said Town, and was an eye-witness of this severe stroke) by an eminent Citizen of *London*, who upon occasion hath since that time been at *Ashover*, and according to the information he there received concerning it did himself draw up the Relation following.

This *Dorothy Mately* lived in *Ashover* in the County of *Derby* four miles from *Chesterfield*, she was a woman of a very wicked life and conversation as divers people of the Town informed me, and particularly noted for a common curser, swearer, thief and lier, and had gotten a constant habit of this Imprecation (in her asserting of any thing,) *I would I might sinke into the Earth if it be not so, or I would God would make the Earth open and swallow me up*, and the like, some of the Town said they had heard her use such like imprecations hundreds of times; Her usual labour that she followed for her living was to wash the rubbish that came forth of the Lead Groves or Mines, and therein to get sparks of lead ore (as they called them;) And upon the 23 day of *March* 1660, the said *Dorothy* being washing Ore on the top of a *Steep* and Rocky Hill, about a quarter of a mile from *Ashover*, was taxed for stealing two single pence out of a Youths pocket (who had laid a side his Breeches whilst he wrought in his drawers) which she violently denied, wishing the ground might swallow her up if she had them, and used the same imprecations several times upon other occasions that day: And one *George Hodgkinson* of *Ashover* a man of good repute amongst his Neighbours,

bours, coming accidentaly by the place where the ſaid *Dorothy* was at work (the time aforeſaid) ſtood ſtill a little to talk with her, ſhe was waſhing her Ore in a Tub with a ſieve in it, the people ſhewed me one like to it which I think was near four foot in the Diameter, and about two foot and a half deep; There was a little Girle ſtanding at her Tub ſide, and another Wench being at ſome diſtance called aloud to them, and they not underſtanding what ſhe ſaid, the ſaid *George Hodgkinſon* went to the Tub ſide and taking the little Girle by the hand, ſaid come go along with me, and hear what the Wench hath to ſay to you, but as he ſaid he and the Girle were not gone ten yards from the place before he heard the woman behind him crying out for help, and thereupon looking back he ſaw the Woman and the Tub twirling round and ſinking, (as his own expreſſions were) and he, making anſwer to her cry, ſaid, *pray to God to pardon thy ſin, for thou art never like to be ſeen alive any longer* or words to this effect, but when the woman and the tub were ſunk about 3 yards down, ſhe ſtaied a while and called again for help, thinking as ſhe ſaid that ſhe ſhould ſtay there; and the man being ſore amazed, yet beginning to think how to help her, immediatly a great ſtone which appeared in the earth, fell upon her head, and broke her ſkull; and then the earth fell in upon her, and covered her; She was afterwards digged up and found about four yards within ground, but her Tub and Sive was not found, there was found in her pocket the ſingle pence which ſhe had denyed; After converſing with *George Hodgkinſon* and ſome other Inhabitants of *Aſhover* I went to ſee the place, which is on the top of a Hill as aforeſaid, there is a lead Grove or pit about ſix yards from the place, this grove as the people told me was forty odd Fathom deep cut through hard Rocks, and there was not the leaſt ſhrinking of Earth into that Grove, the

place where the woman ſunk was a round hole or pit as I Judge about three or four yards deep, and I think about the ſame breadth at the top, but narrow at the bottom, the ground round about is firm and not the leaſt crack in it that I could diſcern, and the very place where the woman and her tub ſtood appeared the like before her ſinking, there lies great weights of ſtone and ore all about it, and the like hath done upon that place; I asked the people if they could give any reaſon for her ſinking, and they anſwered God only knows the reaſon (or to that eff. &) *George Hodgkinſon* the immediate eye-witneſſe ſeemed much affected with it, and ſaid he hoped it would do him good, and that he ſhould have occaſion to remember it all the dayes of his life.

XXVI.

Whlie the Biſhop of *Oxford* was conferring orders upon ſome perſons, a ledge of wanſcot fell down upon the Communion Table. Alſo Dr *Barten Holiday* as he was adminiſtring the Sacrament fell down and ſo wounded himſelf that he cou'd not proceed to officiate any further.

ON the 31 of *March* being the Lords day 1661, two ſtrange accidents happened at Chriſt-Church in *Oxford* where the Biſhop of the Dioceſs was met with ſeveral of his Clergy to confer holy orders (as they call them) upon ſeveral perſons, there is ſome difference in the reports about them.

But from a member of that Univerſity who is a great friend to that way, and will be far from ſpeaking any thing to the diſadvantage of that party, take the relation of it as followeth, being an extract of a letter under his own hand to a perſon of quality near *London*, dated at *Oxford April* 4 1661 *in hæc verba*, On Sunday laſt the Biſhop of *Oxf.* conferred holy orders at Chriſt-Church, whil'ſt they were about the Solemnity two ſtrange and unuſual accidents happened wch have already occaſioned diſcourſes here. & I doubt not the ſtory will get with advantage to *London*, he firſt was that whil'ſt the Biſhop was confirming ſeverall perſons, a great ledge of wainſcote fell down either upon or nigh the Communion-table, which it is thought if the Biſhop had not been in the body

body of the Chancel laying hands on the perſons to be confirmed, but in the place where he read the prayers it would have done him a miſchief; The other accident was that Dr. *Barten Holiday*, the Arch-Deacon of *Oxford* adminiſtring the Wine at the Sacrament (which is alwaies on ſuch occaſions to be adminiſtred) fell down and hit his face againſt the chalice, ſo as to wound himſelf ſo much, that he was forced to deliſt and Dr. *Lamplugh* of Queenes officiated for him.

From another member of the ſame Univerſity and as credible a perſon as the former, we have a more full (yet true) account of this buſineſs as followeth. Upon the laſt day of *March* there were many ordained in Chriſt Church Chappel, one of wch ſwounded twice that they were forced to intermit till ſtrong water was fetch'd, after which the Biſhop went on in his work, wherein he had not long proceeded before a Canopie made of winſcoat, a great while ſince erected over the high Altar, fell down upon the late railed Altar, and with its fall threw down the bread appointed for the Communion that day, together with the drinking veſſels, and made them fly ſeveral waies; but after this a worſe thing chanced, when the Table was prepared again for the Communion, and all conſecrated by the Biſhop, as Dr. *Holiday* his Lordſhips Arch Deacon was marching with the cup down the ſteps from the high Altar to adminiſter it, he fel down with an exceeding violence and cut both his hand and his face, whereby he was utterly diſabled from officiating any further for that time in that ſervice.

XXVII.

ONe *Luke Hodges* of the City of *Worceſter* with two or three more of his friends and companions had occaſion not long before the 23 of *April* laſt 1661 (being the day of the Kings Coronation) to ride (accor-

Three or four debauched perſons Inhabitants of *Worceſter* did on the day of his Majeſties Coronation drink healths to ſo great exceſſe, that two of them fell ſick immediately upon it and died.

(according to our best information) to *Droyt Wych*, where their business it seems detained them the day before mentioned, which according to the mode of those that would be accounted the best Subjects, they did celebrate in swearing and rioting, but especially in drinking the Royal healths (though expressly contrary to his Majesties late Proclamation on that behalf; but these men that they might excell and become paramount in the Solemnity of the day, did agree that the most considerable healths should be honoured with putting a live into every glasse of Wine a little fish, which in that Country they call a loch, and so to drink down wine and fish together, and if at any time the fish stuck by the way according to their agrement they were to swear and curse it down: when the Solemnity was ended and they had made use of the ordinary means (sleep) for the recovery of their senses, and were now from beasts in some competent degree transformed into men again as well as they could, rode home to *Worcester* where the Righteous God immediately calls some of them to an account for their late prophanes and horrible abuse of themselves and his Creatures, and strikes the aforesad *Luke Hodges* with a desperate and violent sickness, during all the time whereof he was in unspeakable torment, and still fancied (as we have credibly been informed) that the fishes which he drank down did continually gnaw upon him, after a few dayes sickness he miserably ended his life.

About the same time another of them whose name was *Segar*, the Lord struck much after the same manner and in a short space of time he also breathed out his last, the rest are for the present reserved to take warning by the example of Gods severe Judgements upon their fellowes, whereby the Lord with a very loud and most articulate voice calls them to a speedy repentance and reformation *least they likewise perish*, Luke 13.5.

It would fill a considerable Volumne to collect the several judgments that have been inflicted upon drunkards and health-drinkers, the Reader may furnish himself with variety of Examples of this kind if he look into Beards Theat. &c. *and* Clarks *Examples, and a book called a Divine Tragedy; we shall only pick out these three short instances, which come the neareſt to a Paralel of any that we can find.* The Paralel.

1 *At the Plough in* Barnwel *near* Camb. 4 *persons were engaged in this sin of drunkenneſs, and drunk ſo much that within a ſhort time after three of them died and the fourth narrowly eſcaped after a very great ſickneſs,* Clarks Exam. p. 148.

2 *Alſo at a place near* Mauldon *in* Eſſex 4 *or* 5 *perſons appointed a drinking match, and did there abuſe the Creatures of God to very great exceſs, they drank Healths in a very ſtrange manner, whereof all of them dyed in a very ſhort time after,* Clark. ibid. p. 149.

3 *To theſe two, we ſhall add onely one more; An Epiſcopal conformable Miniſter going down (*Anno. 1634.*) on a Saturday night with ſome of his Neighbours into the Countrey, the next day being the Lords Day, they went in the afternoon a little way to viſit a* London *Miniſter, who had another living in the Countrey, he entertained them very courteouſly with good ſtore of Sack,* &c. *the Parſon who was the viſitant drank ſo freely, that he was ill all night, and the next morning grew worſe, his Neighbours got him home as well as they could to* London, *and before the next Lords Day following he dyed.* Divine Trag. p. 28.

The Concluſion.

WE have now given a faithful account to the world of thoſe great and remarkable providences which have come to our knowledge within the compaſs of the reſpective times mentioned in the foregoing Narrative. Many other particulars of the like nature we have by us, which came to

our

our hands too late to accompany these which we have now published. We shall therefore reserve them together with what of the like kind may for the future from good hands be communicated to us (wherein we beg the utmost assistance from all the Lords People in the several Countries) to another season, which if the Lord vouchsafe, they shall see the Light also. In the mean while, we cannot but recommend to the Readers most serious perusal, an excellent Discourse of Dr. Martin Luther (that Faithful Servant of Jesus Christ against Antichrist) upon Luke 21. vers. 25, 26. &c. being very lately by an able and faithful hand, with great exactness Translated out of his Enarrations on the Gospels and Writings of the Apostles and other places of Scripture, Printed at Busil, Anno. 1546. Which Sermon as we judge, doth most lively open and apply the foregoing History of the great and marvelous Works of the Lord which cannot indeed be rightly known or understood but by his Word. And what this Famous and Eminent Light of the Church did Declare and Teach so long agoe, is exactly calculated for this Year of Prodigies and Wonders. We read in Rev. 4. vers. 5. That out of the Throne of God, proceeded Lightnings, and Thundrings, and Voices, &c. By Lightnings and Thundrings, we may well understand the Terrible and Dreadful Works and Dispensations of God, which being alone, make but a very uncertain sound, but Voices (which signifie the Preaching of the Word) being joyned with them, they may the more clearly be understood, and the better improved by all those that take pleasure therein. Now as Face answers Face in a Glass so truly and fully doth the foregoing Narrative in all things comport with the forementioned Sermon, upon wch account we do the more affectionately at this time recommend it to the Sober and Judicious Reader, praying unto the Lord, that all those who shall have Hearts and Opportunitie to look seriously into it, may thereby through Divine Blessing, be fully instructed in the Mind and Meaning of God, in these late eminent and Signal Works and Wonders of his Providence amongst us.

FINIS.

* This is not that Sermon of *Luthers*, upon the same Text which was heretofore translated into *English*, and Printed at *London*, *Anno*. 1570. though that also be a Discourse well worthy the Readers most diligent perusal.